MONDAY
January 15, 2024

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
20 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

FOLLOW US
https://newsth.live/fb
https://newsth.live/whatsapp
https://newsth.live/x
https://newsth.live/ig

Vol. 55 • No. 13

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

SEQUENTIAL DECLINE

New investments slid 46% in third quarter

NEWS » PAGE 14

GANGA SAGAR MELA

Sea erosion affecting 'national fair' ambitions

NEWS » PAGE 16

IN SHIMLA

Reducing snow cover hits winter sports

NEWS » PAGE 16

SHIV SENA CASE

A flawed move to determine the real faction

It is not for the Speaker to decide

EDITORIAL » PAGE 12

DOMINANT SHOW

India seals T20I series with thumping win

SPORT » PAGE 19

NEARBY

IMD plans events for anniversary

BENGALURU
India Meteorological Department is stepping into its 150th year in 2024 and has planned yearlong events to commemorate the occasion across the country.The celebrations will kick-start on Monday. » Page 4

THE HINDU

wishes its readers a Happy Pongal

There will be no issue of The Hindu dated January 16, 2024 as Pongal is a holiday

Readers can access the online edition at www.thehindu.com

EDUCATION PLUS » PAGE 7

Muizzu sets March 15 deadline for India to withdraw troops

India, however, says both nations discussed a 'solution' at Sunday's meet; the Maldives, in contrast, says they agreed to fast-track the withdrawal

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Mohamed Muizzu and Narendra Modi. The India-Maldives High-Level Core Group, set up after their December meet, met on Sunday. PTI

Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu has asked India to withdraw its troops from the island nation by March 15, a top official said on Sunday, posing the latest in a series of diplomatic challenges from Male to New Delhi since his September election win.

Abdullah Nazim Ibrahim, the Principal Secretary to President Muizzu on Public Policy, told a media conference at the Presidential Palace in Male that Indian military personnel will no longer be permitted to reside in the Maldives, according to Male-based media.

The senior official's announcement was made even as the India-Maldives High-Level Core Group – set up when Mr. Muizzu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi met on the sidelines of the UN climate summit (COP-28) in Dubai – held its first meeting in Male.

However, a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) after the meeting made no mention of a request for Indian troops' withdrawal. Instead, it noted that both sides discussed "finding [a] mutually workable solution to enable continued operation of Indian aviation platforms that provide humanitarian and medvac [medical evacuation] services to the people of Maldives".

In contrast, the press statement issued by the Maldives' Ministry of Foreign Affairs said: "Both sides expressed willingness to intensify cooperation and agreed to fast-track the withdrawal of Indian military personnel."

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

Hegde's remarks: Kumta police file *suo motu* case; Tangadagi slams MP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/MANGALURU

A day after BJP MP Anantkumar Hegde abused Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and spoke of demolishing mosques in Bhatkal, Srirangapatna, and Sirsi, Congress leaders hit back at him on Sunday, with the sharpest attack coming from Kannada and Culture Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi.

The Kumata police have already filed a *suo motu* case against the MP on charges of spreading hate.

While several Congress leaders, including Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, were measured in their criticism of Mr. Hegde, Mr. Tangadagi went ballistic against the MP and spoke in a similar vein on Sunday.

Mr. Siddaramaiah himself on Saturday said: "Culture cannot be expected from him (Mr. Hegde)." Cooperation Minister K.N. Rajanna and Home Minister G. Parameshwara had also condemned Mr. Hegde's statement.

Shivaraj Tangadagi

The Uttara Kannada MP had in a speech at the party office in Kumta addressed the Chief Minister in the singular while speaking about demolition of mosques at the aforementioned places, claiming that they were built after destroying temples. "This can be considered a threat. It (demolition) will definitely be carried out. This is not Hegde's decision, but the decision of Hindu society," he said on Saturday.

On Sunday addressing Mr. Hegde in the singular and comparing him to a "dog", Mr. Tangadagi told a Kannada news channel: "Who is this small man Anant Hegde? He does not have a standing to speak in the singular against Mr. Siddaramaiah. We also speak against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Have we spoken against him like this? Because elections are approaching, they are remembering Pakistan, Muslims, and temples."

Claiming that they had been tutored to speak in a cultured way by party seniors, the Minister said: "He (Mr. Hegde) is not comparable even to the dirt on Mr. Siddaramaiah's feet. We can teach these kinds of dogs a lesson. This is the first and last warning. If he speaks about Mr. Siddaramaiah or Congress again, I will respond in his language. Even I know how to speak in his language."

"I have been taught culture and not to use such language by seniors in party. I should not speak like this and I do not want to speak like this. I can use even worse language in our north Karnataka way," the Minister said.

Meanwhile, the Kumata police have registered a *suo motu* case against the MP.

Based on a complaint by police sub-inspector (law and order), the Kumta police have registered a case against the MP under Section 153 A and 505 (2) of the IPC for spreading hate by his speech at the party meeting, Uttara Kannada Superintendent of Police N. Vishnuvardhan told *The Hindu*. The police said that they will seize video evidence of the speech and initiate investigation, he added.

BJP divided

Meanwhile, the response among BJP leaders remained divided.

In Shivamogga, former Deputy Chief Minister K.S. Eshwarappa pointed out that Mr. Siddaramaiah had also addressed Mr. Modi in the singular. He also justified Mr. Hegde's statement that mosques had been built by demolishing temples, and said that there was nothing wrong in the statement.

However, another former Deputy Chief Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan did not justify the statement against Mr. Siddaramaiah.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

Rahul vows for peace as he kicks off yatra in Manipur

Sandeep Phukan
THOUBAL, IMPHAL

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with party chief Mallikarjun Kharge at the launch of the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Thoubal on Sunday. PTI

The ethnic strife in Manipur symbolises the politics of hate that the BJP-RSS follows, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said while launching his Manipur-to-Mumbai Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra on Sunday here.

The 6,713-km yatra, covering much of the distance by bus, was flagged off by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge at Thoubal, around 35 km from Imphal. The yatra will conclude in Mumbai on March 20 after passing through 15 States in 67 days.

The Congress leader embarked on the yatra with a promise of bringing peace and harmony in the violence-hit State.

"Maybe for [Prime Minister] Narendra Modi, the BJP and the RSS, Manipur is not a part of India. Your pain is not their pain. We understand the pain that the people of Manipur have been through, we understand the hurt, the sadness. We will bring back harmony, peace and affection for which this State was known," he said at a public meeting before the start of the yatra.

'FIGHT FOR JUSTICE' » PAGE 15

Bantwal MLA injured in hit-and-run case

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Bantwal MLA U. Rajesh Naik was injured in a hit-and-run case reported in the Bajpe police station limits on Sunday.

The MLA suffered injuries on both his knees and was treated at a hospital in Mangaluru.

Mishap near temple

Police Commissioner Anupam Agrawal said in a statement that a car which was going from Moodbidri to Mangaluru hit the MLA in front of Gopalakrishna Temple, Tenka Yadapadavu, when Mr. Naik was trying to cross the road on foot.

The incident occurred after he attended a function there at about 1.30 p.m.

The driver of the car drove away without stopping after hitting the legislator.

Later, the car was intercepted at Gurupura Junction with the help of 112 Hoysala police vehicle and it was brought to the station.

Case registered

Based on a complaint by Pawan Kumar Shetty, an eyewitness at the spot who is also personal assistant to the MLA, a case (No 9/2024) was registered under Sections 279 and 337 of Indian Penal Code, and 134 (a)(b) of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 against the driver of the car, Mohammed Sufail.

Alluring

The pink trumpet tree (Tabebuia impetiginosa) seen in full bloom, at Cubbon Park in Bengaluru.
K. MURALI KUMAR

53 departure delays reported at KIA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Around 53 flights from the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) were delayed on Sunday.

An official of the Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) said that of the total 53 departure delays 26 of them were due bad weather at Bengaluru.

The official added that six Indigo flights to Goa, Varanasi, Delhi, Vijayawada and Prayagraj were affected, along with one Akasa Air flight to Varanasi.

"Due to the low visibility and dense fog conditions across North India, IndiGo flight operations were impacted on Jan 14, 2024. This had a cascading effect on our operations throughout the day. Our staff kept passengers apprised of all delays and cancellations across airports and made every possible effort to facilitate the passengers. We sincerely regret the inconvenience caused to our passengers," Indigo said in a statement.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4

State to introduce sector-based booster kits for start-ups in a month's time

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge interacting with *The Hindu* in Bengaluru on Sunday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The State government is planning to introduce new sector-based booster kits for start-ups in a month.

IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge told *The Hindu* the new kit will be more practical than the earlier ones with its sector-based approach.

"We are evaluating what it is that a particular sector needs," he said.

"For example, in the biotech space, startups are not the problem, scaling is; Idea to proof of concept is not a challenge, but from there to Stage-1 is. After that funding gets easy. If it is a robotics startup, they can be tied up with ARTPARK. If it's a life sciences startup, they could be given an opportunity to work in medical science colleges or other similar institutes. We are talking to people in various sectors and trying to figure out how to help," Mr. Kharge said.

The start-up Karnataka booster kit was launched initially in 2016. The kit currently includes a range of software tools, cloud credits, access to mentors, incubators and government funding, and legal and financial consultants, and is available for any start-up registered with the government of Karnataka.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

Looking for Israel jobs? Read the fine print

Suhasini Haidar
A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

As officials in at least two States – Uttar Pradesh and Haryana – prepare to screen thousands of applicants for jobs in Israel, activists and trade unions say the Union government is bypassing protections it offers for workers going to conflict zones abroad.

These workers will not even be required to register themselves on the "e-migrate" portal run by the External Affairs Ministry, and several Ministries and agencies have disclaimed responsibility for their welfare and safety.

Official promotional documents accessed by *The Hindu* give no details of contractual protections. They say the workers will have to pay for their tickets, apart from a facilitation fee of ₹10,000 charged by the National Skills Development Corporation. They will not receive any insurance or medical coverage, and job guarantees which the government insists on for those heading to other labour markets.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

In the last couple of years, women's hockey has become very dynamic: Valentin Altenburg

The 42-year-old German team head coach says it requires a new approach every time while taking charge across categories

HOCKEY

Nihit Sachdeva
RANCHI

Valentin Altenburg's name has been associated with the German hockey setup for more than a decade. In this journey, he has coached the age-group teams as well as both the senior sides.

By the way, he is just 42 years old.

Currently here as the head coach of the German team for the FIH Women's Hockey Olympic Qualifiers, Altenburg explains how taking charge across categories has its own attractiveness and requires a new approach every time.

"There is always a big difference from team to team, independent of age, group or gender. Nowadays, we see little bit different playing styles in women's hockey than in men's hockey and I find it very interesting how women's hockey has developed. In the last couple of years, it has become very dynamic, varied combinations and very attractive to watch. Leadershipwise and structurewise, it is very similar (to men)," he said.

"Obviously, there is a difference to the youth team because it is more about education and development while a men's or women's team is more focused on the results."

Youngest

In 2015, Altenburg was appointed head coach of the senior men's team, the youngest in German Hockey Association's (DHB) history and he proved the decision right by leading that team to a bronze medal at the 2016 Rio Olympics.

However, his sudden rise should not come across as a surprise since his love for coaching began when he took his initial steps in the sport.

"My mom and even my grandmom played hockey which is pretty normal and usual. In Germany, it is a feminine sport in the sense that you give it to the next generation.

"I started when I was nine-ten years old. The club where I started in Hamburg, we were used to older players teaching and coaching the younger groups as a tradition.

"I started to coach young kids and enjoyed it from the beginning. While I continued playing, I used my spare time to coach league teams. That is how I started in hockey and that is also how my coaching career started."

Altenburg's stint with the senior women's team began two years ago. The side finished fourth at the World Cup in 2022 before winning bronze at last year's European Championship, where gold medallist Dutch team grabbed the automatic qualification spot for Paris Olympics.

It is not the first time that Altenburg is in India for a major assignment. He was in-charge of the senior men's team during the Hockey World League Finals in Raipur in 2015 and the junior men's side at the World Cup in Lucknow a year later. During those two years, he also managed Dabang Mumbai in Hockey India League.

Opportunity

The ongoing qualifiers in Ranchi are very important for World No. 5 Germany, which has never missed the Summer Games. It also provides Altenburg the opportunity to move one step closer to something former German coach Markus Weise achieved – winning Olympic medals with both the senior sides.

> I started to coach young kids and enjoyed it from the beginning. While I continued playing, I used my spare time to coach league teams

THE GIST

- Altenburg was appointed head coach of the senior men's team in 2015
- His stint with the senior women's team began two years ago. The side finished fourth in the 2022 World Cup before winning bronze at last year's European Championship
- Altenburg also managed Dabang Mumbai in Hockey India League

Dr. Selin Oruz: German hockey star and aspiring pediatrician

Nihit Sachdeva
RANCHI

Not many can say that they have a degree in medicine as well as an Olympic medal in field hockey. Both are extremely tough fields and requires a lot of dedication.

However, for Dr. Selin Oruz, hockey is a stress buster.

Oruz, whose parents are also doctors, won bronze at 2016 Rio Olympics with Germany as an 18-year-old. The defender also took part in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics where the German team finished sixth. The 26-year-old is now a part of the squad playing at the ongoing FIH Women's Hockey Olympic Qualifiers.

"It's a lot of discipline to combine sports and medicine. But in the end, I think you can combine it because they are so similar in many ways. You have to be 100 per cent and have to give your best."

"I always love to play hockey to calm down a bit from the stress from studying," said Oruz, one of the goalscorers in the 3-0 win over Chile in the Group A opener at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh AstroTurf Stadium on Saturday.

Oruz earned her primary degree in medicine after a seven-year course, as per the system in Germany. To specialise in a particular area, she needs to further study for five years.

"I want to be a kids doctor - pediatrician. At the moment, I practise as an ears, nose and throat doctor. I think it's a good thing to start with because kids always have something here," said Oruz.

"My mother was a pediatrician. She was my idol and she still loves medicine so much. I love to work with children because it's the most important thing to do. Working with children and improving the environment for children in our society. This is what I live for," she added.

Communication is key

Communication on the pitch is an essential part of any team sport. Oruz feels that aspect of the sport also helps her in her profession. "I love to interact with people. Not every doctor is the best at interaction and may be a bit self-concerned. I love to talk to parents. This is also something you have to do when you work with children."

"We have to talk a lot with parents and I like to give them a good feeling and try to understand the children well," said Oruz, who is in her first year of specialisation.

"I want to do something in my life which makes me happy. I hope that I'll find it in helping others and helping children because this is what I want from life – not the big money but the feeling that I'm comfortable with myself and what I do."

Oruz also said that she is ready to delay her specialisation for the Summer Games. "I need a little bit longer because of hockey at the moment but I don't care because going to the Olympics should be worth it. And I can be a doctor for the rest of my life," she said.

Germany has never missed out on qualifying for the Olympics and Oruz hopes that the streak continues at Paris later this year.

India's No.1 Dealer
VASANTH & CO

Wishing you all a Happy Pongal

PONGAL DISCOUNT SALE

Vasanth Finance Festival

- BAJAJ FINSERV upto ₹7500 CASH BACK + upto ₹4000 BENEFIT*
- HDB FINANCIAL SERVICES upto ₹2500 CASH BACK*
- IDFC FIRST Bank upto ₹5000 CASH BACK*
- TVSCREDIT upto ₹3000 CASH BACK*

No Down Payment and Take Home a

LED TV / AC / Refrigerator / Washing Machine / Water Purifier / Microwave Oven / Mobile / Laptop / Dish Washer / Air Cooler / Home Theatre Balance in EMI. (Selected Model)

kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank upto ₹10001 Instant Discount*

Vasanth Finance Festival

Debit Cards / Credit Cards % NO COST EMI +

upto ₹26000 Instant Discount*

HDFC BANK | ICICI Bank | SBI | AXIS BANK | kotak | RBL BANK | citi | IDFC FIRST Bank | HSBC | Standard Chartered

- Just Pay ₹55 & Take Home 55" (139.7 cm) LED TV
- Just Pay ₹65 & Take Home 65" (165.1 cm) LED TV
- Just Pay ₹75 & Take Home 75" (190.5 cm) LED TV
- Just Pay ₹85 & Take Home 85" (215.9 cm) LED TV

Balance in EMI

LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEED. EASY EMI.

3 Jar Mixie — FREE — Smart Watch (OR) For purchase above ₹ 1 lakh

24 Pcs Dinner set — FREE — Neo Buds (OR) For purchase (between ₹ 75001 to ₹ 100000)

Electric Kettle — FREE — Neck Band (OR) For purchase (between ₹ 50001 to ₹ 75000)

Appam Pan — FREE — Bluetooth Head Set (OR) For purchase (between ₹ 25001 to ₹ 50000)

SS Water Bottle — FREE — Rice Box For purchase (between ₹ 15001 to ₹ 25000) / For purchase (between ₹ 5001 to ₹ 15000)

Vasanth Special Combo Offer - 3 Products

32"(81.28 cm) LED TV + 180 Ltr Refrigerator + 6.5 Kg Washing Machine

Price ~~₹52640~~

Vasanth Combo Price ₹29990

EMI Facility Available

Vasanth Special Combo Offer - 8 Products

32" (81.28 cm) LED TV + Refrigerator + Washing Machine + Wet Grinder + 3 Jar Mixie + Water Heater + Iron Box + Sofa

Vasanth Combo Price ₹49990

EMI Facility Available

Price ~~₹85830~~

Buy 83" OLED evo 4K Smart TV and get

EMI ₹4999 FREE!

48" OLED evo 4K Smart TV

upto ₹26000 CASH BACK*

Pongal Special Offer - Home Entertainment and Refrigerator

65" UHD GOOGLE ROCK LED TV

EMI ₹3751 (165.1 cm)

55" UHD 4K Smart LED TV

EMI ₹1994 (139.7 cm)

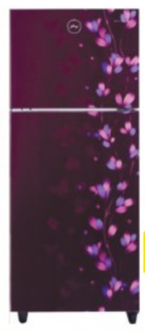
43" Android OS LED TV

EMI ₹1666 (109.22 cm)

630 Ltr Side by Side Refrigerator

EMI ₹2994

Frost Free Refrigerator



EMI ₹1874

Washing Machine Special Offer

7 Kg Top Loading Washing Machine

EMI ₹1183

6.5 Kg Front Loading Washing Machine

EMI ₹2416

SONY
இந்த புத்தாண்டு மற்றும் பொங்கலில் கொண்டாட்டங்கள் பெருகட்டும்
Happy Pongal!
SPECIAL OFFERS*
2 YEARS WARRANTY
INSTANT CASHBACK ₹20,000/-
1 EMI FREE
UP TO 30% OFF
SOUNDBAR COMBO OFFER SAVE UPTO ₹9,990/-
BRAVIA CORE | Google TV | Dolby VISION·ATMOS | Perfect for PlayStation 5

Kitchen Appliances Special Offer

Just Pay ₹499 & Take Home a Preethi ZODIAC COSMO Balance in EMI

Price ~~₹18545~~

(Selected Model)

Just Pay ₹499 & Take Home a Butterfly Wet Grinder and get FREE! Multi Kettle / Iron Box

Just Pay ₹499 & Take Home a Vidiem For the joy of cooking 2 / 3 Burner Glass Top Gas Stove and get FREE! 5 Ltr Pressure Cooker

Kitchen Appliances 2024 Combo Offer

3 Jar Mixie (550 Watts) + Tawa

Price ~~₹4033~~ Vasanth Price ₹2024

2 Burner Glass Top Gas Stove + Rice Box

Price ~~₹5533~~ Vasanth Price ₹2024

Induction Stove + Electric Kettle

Price ~~₹5393~~ Vasanth Price ₹2024

Water Heater At Lowest Price

15 Ltr ABS Body Water Heater

Price ~~₹11000~~

Vasanth Price ₹5990

VASANTH CARE Extended Warranty

Get upto 5 Years Warranty*

Home Appliances, Mobile Phone & Laptop.

Mobile & Laptops At Lowest Price - upto 30 Months EMI

iPhone 15

Price ~~₹79900~~

HDFC BANK ₹4000 Cash Back + Exchange Bonus upto ₹8000*

Effective Price ₹42900*

Store Instant Discount ₹5000

Old Phone Exchange ₹20000

Pongal Offer

80 W Sound Bar

60% OFF

Price ₹9999

MacBook Air (M1)

8+256 GB

Price ~~₹99999~~

Just Pay EMI ₹3458

Vasanth Price ₹82990

S23 FE (8 + 128 GB) SAMSUNG

EMI ₹2292 Price ~~₹59999~~

HDFC BANK ₹5000 Cash Back

₹5000 upgrade

A 54 (8 + 128 GB)

EMI ₹2055 Price ~~₹38999~~

₹2000 Cash Back Select Credit Card

₹2000 Support

V 29 (8 + 128 GB) vivo

EMI ₹1833 Price ~~₹32999~~

₹4000 Cash Back Select Credit Card

Y 200 (8 + 128 GB)

EMI ₹1466 Price ~~₹21999~~

₹2000 Cash Back Select Credit Card

Reno 10 (8 + 256 GB) OPPO

EMI ₹2200 Price ~~₹32999~~

Upto 10% Cash Back Select Credit Card

F 23 (5G) (8 + 256 GB)

EMI ₹1916 Price ~~₹22999~~

Upto 10% Cash Back Select Credit Card

Redmi Note 13 5G (6 + 128 GB)

EMI ₹1200 Price ~~₹17999~~

₹1000 Cash Back Select Credit Card

Redmi Note 13 Pro 5G (8 + 256 GB)

EMI ₹1867 Price ~~₹27999~~

₹2000 Cash Back Select Credit Card

World Class Furniture Combo Offer

(worth ₹4500) FREE 3 Jar Mixie For purchase of Furniture above ₹30000

VASANTH & CO Furniture

Vasanth Combo Price ₹39990 4 Products

Wooden Cot + Mattress + Sofa + Steel Bero EMI ₹3333

Piyestra Vasanth Price ₹35990

Wooden Cot + Wardrobe + Dressing Table + Side Cupboard + Mattress

EMI ₹1796

Comforter + Protector + Bed Sheet + Pillow

Vasanth Price ₹ 4990

*Conditions apply, Offers till stocks last, Images shown are indicative only.

SINCE 1978 Quality Trust

LG | SAMSUNG | SONY | Panasonic | Haier | Whirlpool | Godrej | DAIKIN | BLUE STAR | IFB | Carrier | GENERAL | VOLTAS | MITSUBISHI | LLOYD | LIEBHERR | Preethi | BOSCH | PHILIPS | TOSHIBA | HYUNDAI | TCL | BAJAJ | Butterfly | Crompton | Vidiem | USHA | HITACHI

ONIDA | FABER | SOWRAGHYA | ULTRA | HAVELLS | PRESTIGE | EUREKA FORBES | KAFF | V-GUARD | Premier | Prestige | VENUS | dyson | iPhone | vivo | oppo | mi | ONEPLUS | motorola | TECNO | lenovo | DELL | hp | acer | boAt | FIRE-BOLTT | noise

93335 93335 | /Vasanthandco | /Vasanthandco_in | /Vasanthandco_in | www.vasanthandco.in

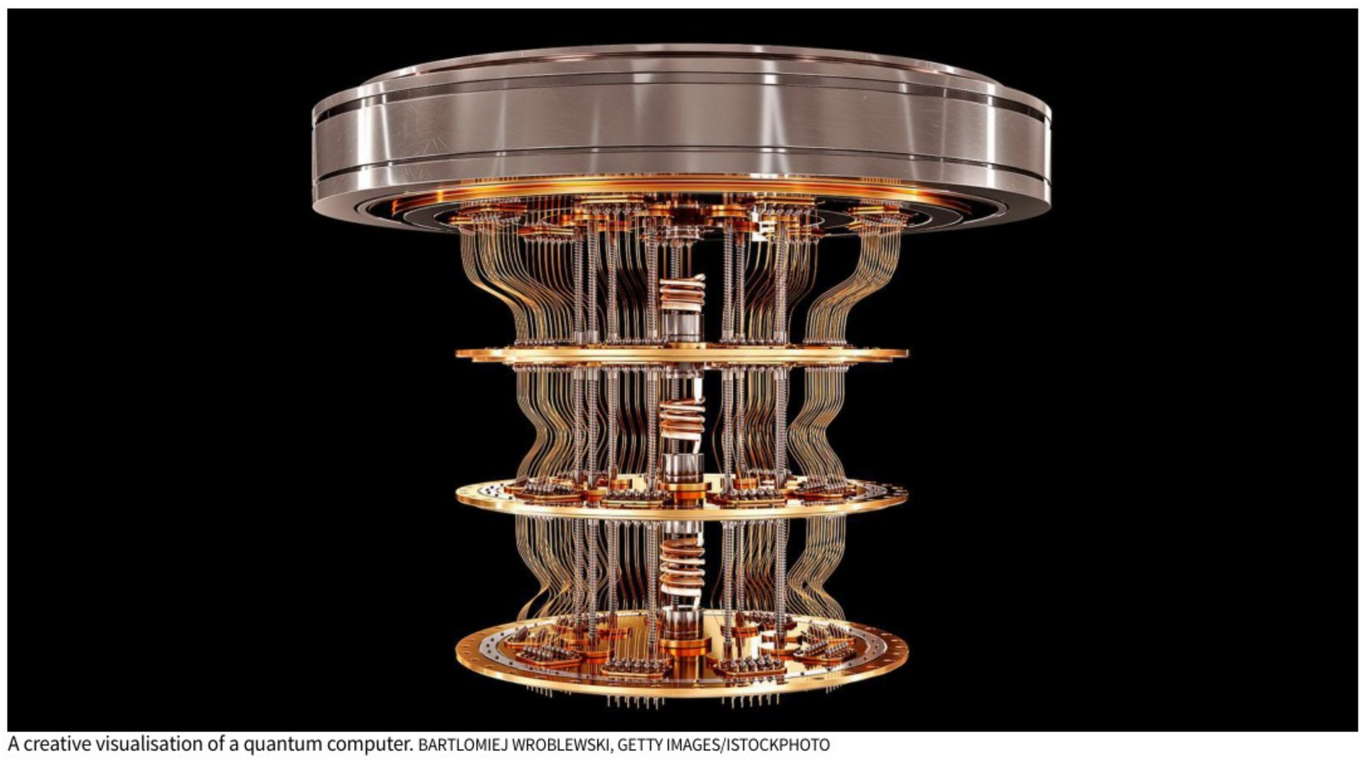
Scan QR Code to know more offer.

The devices that translate quantum effects to computing awesomeness

The most basic unit of a quantum computer is a qubit. It is a physical object that has two states. For example, the spin of a particle can point along two different directions, so the particle can function as a qubit. A quantum gate is a physical process or circuit that changes the state of a qubit

S. Sivakumar

Information technology (IT) has become essential to communication, banking, business, health, education, entertainment, and many other walks of our lives. Its prevalence makes us wonder if society can survive without it. IT relies on gadgets that store and process vast amounts of information at humanly impossible speeds.



A creative visualisation of a quantum computer. BARTLOMIEJ WROBLEWSKI, GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Gate in computing

A bit is the smallest piece of information storage (it is a portmanteau of **bi**nary digi**t**). Often, a large number of bits is required to convey meaningful information. With the advent of modern semiconductor technology, we routinely speak of household computers having a few terabytes (8 trillion bits) of information storage. One terabyte can store 500 hours of high-definition video content.

In a computer, a bit is a physical system with two easily discernible configurations, or *states* - e.g. high and low voltage. These physical bits are useful to represent and process expressions that involve 0s and 1s: for instance, low voltage can represent 0 and high voltage can represent 1.

A gate is a circuit that changes the states of bits in a predictable way. The speed at which these gates work determines how fast a computer functions.

The quantum gate

Modern computers use semiconductor transistors to build circuits that function as bits. A semiconductor chip hosts more than 100 million transistors on 1 sq. mm. Imagine how small an individual transistor is and how close it is to adjacent transistors. As transistors become smaller, they become more susceptible to quantum effects. This is not desirable as the existing technology will then become unreliable for computational tasks. So there is a limit to how many transistors a computer can have.

Moore's law, announced in 1965, states that computing power increases tenfold every five years. This law no longer holds as we have already slowed to a two-fold increase every five years. But this doesn't have to mean we are nearing the end of computing development: the quantum revolution is coming.

The most basic unit of a quantum computer is a *quantum* bit, or qubit. Like in a conventional computer, it is a physical object that has two states. For example, the spin of a particle can point along two different directions, so the particle can function as a qubit. Or it can be a superconducting circuit that mimics an atom, and its two states can be a ground state, where it has lower energy, and a higher 'excited' state.

A quantum gate is a physical process or circuit that changes the state of a qubit or a collection of qubits.

In the quantum-computing context, if particles or superconducting qubits are the physical qubits, the gate is often an electromagnetic pulse.

Interlude: Superposition

A fundamental limitation of conventional computing architecture is that each bit can exist in only one of the two states, 0 *or* 1. But according to quantum physics, a qubit can also be in a *superposition* of its two states at the same time.

Imagine you're walking in the northeast direction. It is equivalent to moving partly along the north and the rest along the east. Your northeast movement is a superposition of walking along the north and along the east. So by combining different distances *along* the two directions, you can realise some movement in any direction between the two.

The basis states of the qubit are similar to the north and east directions. A qubit in a superposition has some contributions from each basis state. Different superpositions correspond to different amounts of contributions.

If a qubit is in a superposition, then measuring the qubit will cause it to collapse to one of the two states (i.e. either north *or* east). However, we can only predict the probability that it will collapse to one state. Quantum computers use this to their advantage.

> A bit is the smallest piece of information storage. Often, a large number of bits is required to convey meaningful information

For example, to perform one calculation that requires 16 different inputs, a classical computer requires a total of four bits and sixteen computations. But with four qubits in superposition, a quantum computer could generate answers corresponding to all 16 inputs in a single computation.

Superposition is one of the main factors responsible for speeding up a quantum computer.

But while superposition provides enormous advantages, it is a fragile effect. It deteriorates when qubits interact with their environment. Identifying ways to sidestep or overcome this fragility is an active area of research today.

What gates do

In quantum computers, quantum gates act on qubits to process information. For example, a quantum NOT gate changes the state of a qubit from 0 to 1 and vice versa. The effect of the NOT gate on a superposition is again a superposition, resulting from the action of the NOT gate on each basis state in the initial superposition.

Notably, this feature is common to all quantum gates: the effect of a quantum gate on a superposition is the superposition of the *effects* of the quantum gate on the basis states contributing to the initial superposition.

So as the quantum NOT gate inter-converts the states 0 and 1, its action is to swap the contributions of the basis states in the superposition.

The Hadamard gate is a type of gate that acts on a single qubit: it generates a superposition of the basis states.

The controlled-NOT, or CNOT, gate acts on two qubits: a control qubit and a target qubit. The control qubit is unaffected by the CNOT gate. The target qubit flips from 0 to 1 or 1 to 0 if the control qubit state is 1.

CNOT plus a few other gates (that act on single qubits) can perform all possible logical operations on binary information encoded on qubits. That is, they can be combined to form quantum circuits capable of processing information.

Research on reliable quantum computers and suitable quantum algorithms is happening in many institutes, universities, and research labs worldwide. Large-scale, reliable quantum computers will benefit industries ranging from drug design to safe communications.

(S. Srinivasan is a professor of physics at Krea University.)

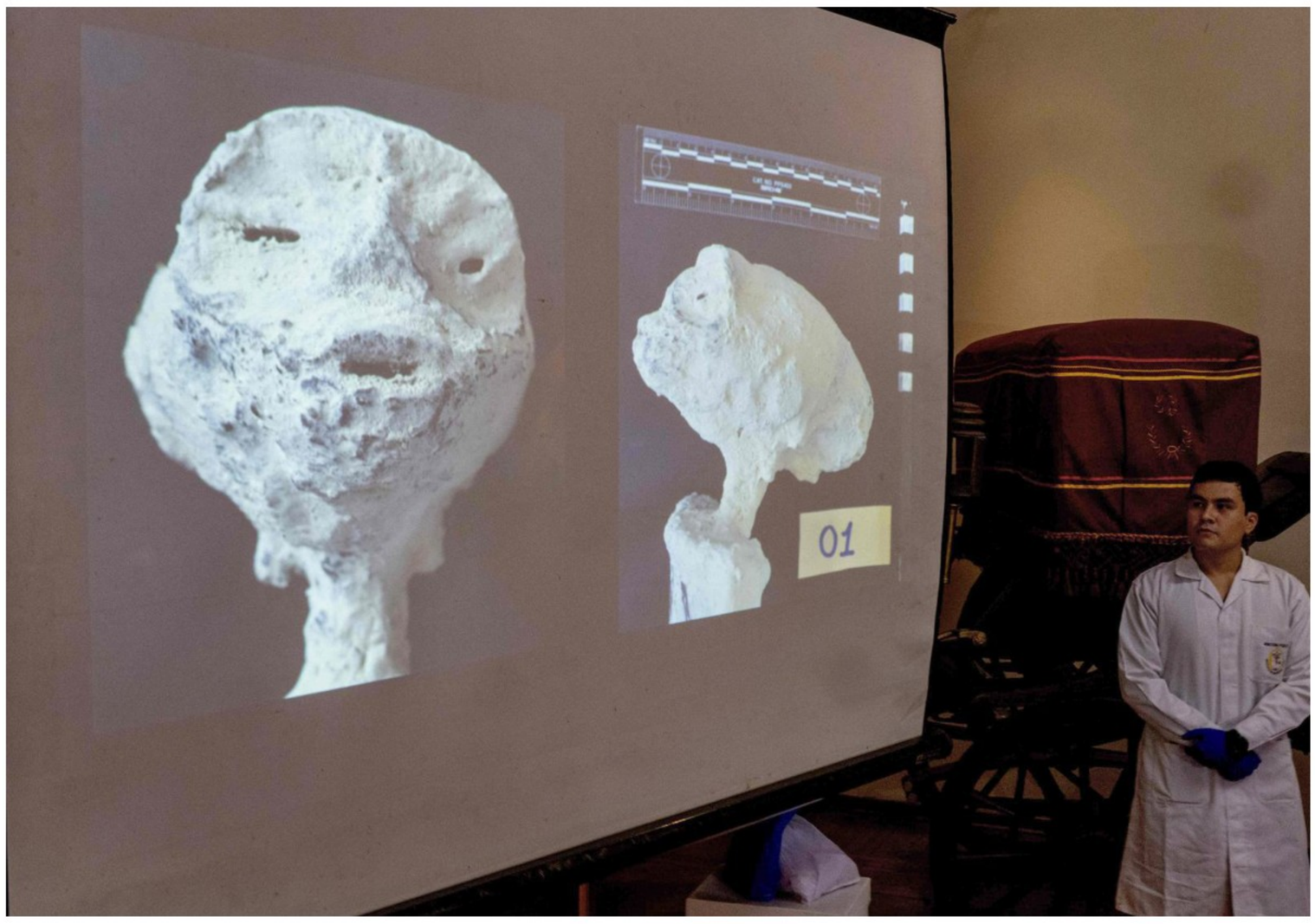
THE GIST

Modern computers use semiconductor transistors to build circuits that function as bits. A semiconductor chip hosts more than 100 million transistors on 1 sq. mm. Imagine how small an individual transistor is and how close it is to adjacent transistors. As transistors become smaller, they become more susceptible to quantum effects

A fundamental limitation of conventional computing architecture is that each bit can exist in only one of the two states, 0 *or* 1. But according to quantum physics, a qubit can also be in a superposition of its two states at the same time

To perform one calculation that requires 16 different inputs, a classical computer requires a total of four bits and sixteen computations. But with four qubits in superposition, a quantum computer could generate answers corresponding to all 16 inputs in a single computation

BIG SHOT



X-ray images were shown at a January 12 press conference of what were believed to be remains of an alien lifeform. After a three-month study, forensic experts said the remains were a hoax. The figures were found when Peruvian customs officials seized a shipment headed to Mexico. Experts said the 'skeletons' were made of paper, metal, and animal and human bones glued together. AFP

WHAT IS IT?

Spacetime: the geometry of our universe

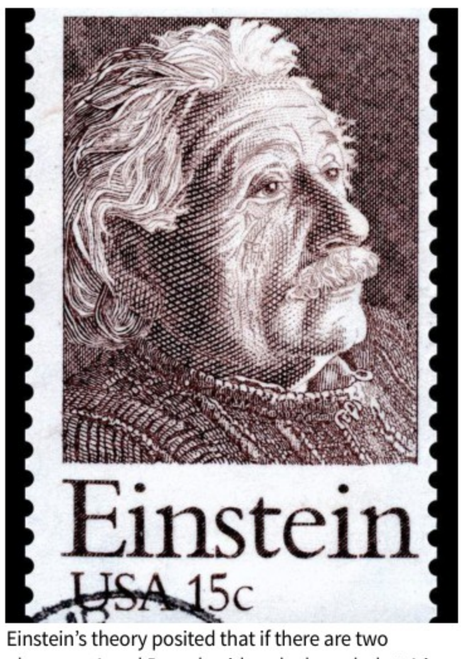
Vasudevan Mukunth

Spacetime is the name of a mathematical model that combines the three dimensions of space and the dimension of time into a single entity. By analysing spacetime using mathematical tools, we can understand different characteristics of our universe.

Until the 19th century, we assumed space and time operated separately. The laws of physics we had until then were fine with this arrangement. But in the mid-19th century, scientists performed some clever experiments and found the universe at the largest scales probably looked different from the universe at the scale of human experience.

This difference is related to the universe's geometry. At the human scale, spacetime appears to be flat: a beam of light from a laser will travel in a straight line. But at the largest scale, our spacetime may actually occupy a spherical space. If you shine a really powerful laser in front of you and wait for an incredibly long time, light from the laser could technically circle back to you.

Albert Einstein's special theory of relativity hammered in the importance of a spacetime view of our universe. It posited that if there are two observers A and B, each with a clock, such that A is moving (but not accelerating) faster than B, A's clock will measure less time as having passed than B's clock.



Einstein's theory posited that if there are two observers A and B, each with a clock, such that A is moving (but not accelerating) faster than B, A's clock will measure less time as having passed than B's clock. GETTY IMAGES

A spacetime model is a model of the universe that, when scientists analyse it, 'naturally' gives rise to these outcomes.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to
science@thehindu.co.in
with the subject 'Daily page'

In Loving Memory

Arvind Vithal Gandhi
(8th Nov. 1930 – 15th Jan. 1986)

Arvind Gandhi, former Chairman and Managing Director of USV Pvt Ltd, was a leader who inspired with integrity and compassion.

Driven by his commitment to addressing India's healthcare needs, he built indigenous development capability and world-class manufacturing in Mumbai during the 1960s.

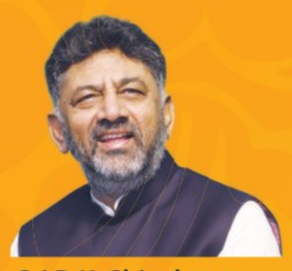
The strong foundation he created serves well to support USV's present and future success.

His values of unrelenting attention to quality and reliability are infused into the fabric of the company and remain integral to all USVites who feel empowered to carry forward the legacy with pride.

USV

Your Reliable Healthcare Partner

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka



Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Wishing You A Very Happy

MAKARA SANKRANTI

Celebrate with the purity of

Mysore Sandal Soap

Sri M.B. Patil
Hon'ble Minister for
Large and Medium Industries and
Infrastructure Development
on his visit to KSDL Bangalore factory

The only soap with 100% pure natural Sandalwood Oil

Enriched with 100% pure natural Sandalwood Oil & Almond Oil and Moisturisers

Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Visit us at : www.mysoresandal.org

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Amount infused by FPIs in Indian equities between January 1-12

3,900 in ₹ crore. Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have adopted a cautious stance in the first two weeks of this month, against the backdrop of uncertainty over the interest rate scenario. PTI

Number of Indian soldiers stationed in the Maldives

80 The Maldives has called for India to withdraw troops from its territory by March 15, an official said on Sunday. President Mohamed Muizzu won the elections last year with a pledge to end the Maldives' "India first" policy. REUTERS

The number of Indian fishermen arrested by Sri Lanka

12 The Sri Lankan Navy has arrested Indian fishermen and seized three trawlers for allegedly poaching in their waters. In 2023, 240 Indian fishermen along with 35 trawlers were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy. PTI

The number of days since the Israel-Hamas War began

100 days. The fighting that erupted on October 7, 2023, has resulted in the death of 23,843 Palestinians in Gaza, while the death toll in Israel and West Bank is 1,200 and 347, respectively. Over 80 journalists were also killed in Gaza. AP

The number of overage vehicles scrapped in FY23

1.4 in lakh. The number of vehicles deregistered in the financial year 2022-23 was 54.95 lakh. Of the 48.77 lakh vehicles deregistered in the 2021-22 fiscal, only 4,923 were scrapped. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu twitter.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

Status of medical care on India's trains

Medical care provisions in the Indian Railways need to address emergency medical conditions, and not accident-related emergencies alone. The Railways need to install a system to capture data on the healthcare needs of people travelling on trains and use that to inform policy

FULL CONTEXT

Parth Sharma
Vaishnavi Jayakumar

The Indian Railways transports more than 2.3 crore passengers daily – roughly twice the projected population of the Uttarakhand State in 2022. Catering to the health needs of this population is its responsibility. The Balasore train accident in June 2023 raised important concerns about rail safety, but it was largely about accident-related safety. Due to its high passenger throughput, there is another kind of safety the Railways is responsible for but which is often overlooked – medical emergencies.

In 2017, 1,076 medical emergencies were reported at the Katpadi Junction railway station in Vellore, Tamil Nadu. A quarter of these emergencies were trauma-related, and the remaining ranged from minor ailments like fever to life-threatening conditions like low blood sugar. Nearly one in every 10 emergencies reported at the station's emergency help desk, operated by the Christian Medical College (CMC) Vellore, required urgent, life-saving intervention.

Non-communicable diseases like diabetes and hypertension are on the rise in India. In the last few years, the number of deaths due to heart attacks has also risen sharply. Is the Indian Railways prepared to handle medical emergencies that result?

Safer rails: Restoration work underway at the railway station in Nampally, in Hyderabad on January 10. PTI

Provision of emergency care

Medical care provisions in the Indian Railways has evolved to address emergency medical conditions, and not accident-related emergencies alone. In 1995, a 'special first aid box' was provided in long-distance superfast trains, Shatabdi and Rajdhani. This box consisted of 49 items and was to be used by a doctor travelling on the train. An improved version of this kit, called the 'augmented first aid box', containing 58 items was provided for specific long-distance trains.

In November 1996, as part of a pilot project, the Railways stationed a medical team in two long-distance trains. This team consisted of a medical officer, a male nurse, and an attendant. In the next four years, however, the Railways found the team was mostly idle, with the doctor attending only to minor ailments. Only four critically ill passengers were recorded in this time, and none survived due to the lack of adequate resources in the moving train. The Railways subsequently discontinued the service – but to make healthcare accessible, it decided to give doctors travelling on trains a 10% discount if they were willing to provide medical services *en route*. However, these medical provisions also were found to be inadequate, when they failed to save the life of Netrapal Singh, the Chief Legal Assistant of Railways, who succumbed to a heart attack while travelling from Jaipur to Kota in 2004.

A petition filed in the Rajasthan High Court in 1996, to improve medical care provision in trains and railway stations, gained momentum after Mr. Singh's demise. In a 2005 judgment, the Court reported that the reason for underutilisation of the medical team in the pilot phase was a lack of awareness of the service. The Court directed Railways authorities to reserve four berths in long-distance trains to provide medical care and to have a medical team in trains travelling more than 500 km. The Court also directed the authorities to adequately advertise the presence of this medical facility in all train compartments and on platforms. However, the Railways appealed this order in 2006 in the Supreme Court. During hearings, the Railways informed the apex court that a pilot initiative – to have chemist's stalls at stations and a doctor in nine select stalls – had failed. Similarly, it had reserved two berths for medical care, but since critically ill patients had to be deboarded for care and the project had a high cost, the Railways stopped doing this as well.

Finally, in 2017, the Supreme Court directed the Railways to set up a committee consisting of experts from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, to recommend further measures.

Based on the Court's order and the committee's recommendations, the Railways determined to modify the contents of the first aid boxes and provide them at all railway stations and in all passenger-carrying trains. It also mandated first-aid training for railway staff at the time of joining and once every three years. The committee also recommended a review of service utilisation every three years.

The current status

In 2018, in response to a question in the Lok Sabha, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways replied that all recommendations of the AIIMS expert committee had been implemented. In 2021, the Railways also launched an integrated helpline number – 139 – for all queries concerning the railways, including medical assistance. In February 2023, Ashwini Vaishnaw, the Union Minister of Railways, said in the Lok Sabha that deputing a doctor at every railway station had been deemed unnecessary. Yet in December, he said all recommendations of the committee had been implemented. Even now, a search on X (formerly Twitter) yields many posts of railway passengers complaining about poor medical services on trains.

On December 23, 2023, while one of the authors – Parth Sharma – was travelling from Delhi to Dehradun on a Vande Bharat express, the train staff, at one point, asked if there was a doctor on board, and if so, to come to the C1 coach. Parth rushed to the C1 coach and found a 60-year-old man who had sudden onset sweating, giddiness, and upper abdominal discomfort. His age, history of diabetes, hypertension, and clinical symptoms all pointed to the possibility of a heart attack. The next stop was 30 minutes away, so he needed first aid.

Unfortunately, the emergency kit on the train was inadequate. At first glance, it lacked a blood pressure monitor and a glucometer. Aspirin, a life-saving drug during a heart attack, was available but it was just a week away from expiring. Nonetheless, Parth was able to provide the best possible first aid in the circumstances. A later, closer inspection of the kit revealed even more inadequacies. In fact, it seemed that the train was using the 1995 48-item list rather than the updated 88-item list from 2017.

The route ahead

According to K.P.P. Abhilash, head of emergency medicine at CMC Vellore, the 2017 list is also wanting. Based on the cases recorded at the emergency care centre in Katpadi Railway station in Vellore, Dr. Abhilash and his team prepared a list of essential medical items the station ought to stock but didn't. In addition to the items in the list by the AIIMS expert committee, this list included personal protective equipment for care providers and a pulse oximeter.

Recent advancements in point-of-care diagnostics have revolutionised healthcare. According to Rajat Jain, founder of Sunfox, a medical device R&D organisation, portable ECG devices and rapid diagnostic kits should be added to identify and treat heart attacks early.

A more immediate step, however, is for the Railways to ensure the updated 88-item list is in place in all trains and that passengers are aware of these services. Periodic inspections are necessary to maintain the quality of care as well. Finally, the Railways needs to install a system to capture data on the healthcare needs of people travelling on trains and use that to inform policy.

Parth Sharma is a physician and founder of Nivarana, a public health advocacy and information platform. Vaishnavi Jayakumar is co-founder of The Banyan and a member of the Disability Rights Alliance.

THE GIST

In 2017, 1,076 medical emergencies were reported at the Katpadi Junction railway station in Vellore, Tamil Nadu. A quarter of these emergencies were trauma-related, and the remaining ranged from minor ailments like fever to life-threatening conditions like low blood sugar.

In a 2005 judgment, the Court found that the reason for underutilisation of the medical team in the pilot phase was a lack of awareness of the service. The Court directed Railways authorities to reserve four berths in long-distance trains to provide medical care and to have a medical team in trains travelling more than 500 km.

In 2017, the Supreme Court directed the Railways to set up a committee consisting of experts from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, to recommend further measures.

Two killed in accidents

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 34-year-old pillion rider was killed and the rider sustained fractures in an accident followed by a hit-and-run on Malagala flyover in Kamakshipalya police station limits on the early hours of Sunday.

The deceased, Dinesh Bhat, a native of Uttarakhand, was working as a cook in a private college canteen. He was heading towards Hebbal from Banashankari with his friend when the accident occurred. According to the police, the rider, Teekraj Bhat, lost control over the bike and the duo slipped and fell on the road. Meanwhile, a vehicle ran over them and sped away. Passers-by rushed the injured to a private hospital where doctors declared Dinesh as brought dead.

In another incident, a 47-year-old man was killed after he was knocked down by a private bus while crossing the road near Kidwai Hospital on Hosur Road on Saturday. The deceased, Narendra, a native of Ballari, was working as an assistant in a BBMP garbage vehicle and staying at Adugodi. He was returning home after work when the accident occurred.

Weather observatory in city pre-dates IMD

It was set up at Bowring Hospital years before the India Meteorological Department was established in 1875. Yearlong events planned to commemorate 150 years of IMD

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

A milestone: The main building of the India Meteorological Department in Bengaluru and (right) A. Prasad, Scientist, explaining the functioning of an old thermometer. SREELAKSHMI PRIYADARSHINI

India Meteorological Department (IMD) is stepping into its 150th year in 2024 and has planned yearlong events to commemorate the occasion across the country. The celebrations will kick-start on Monday. But interestingly, the weather observatory in Bengaluru pre-dates the IMD, which has its genesis in 1875.

"It started way back in November 1867 when the Central Observatory, for weather observation and forecast, was established at Bowring Hospital under Madras Presidency. The observatory only took three readings of temperature – at 10 a.m., 4 p.m., and 10. p.m. In 1894, observatories were established in Bengaluru, Mysuru, Hassan, and Chitradurga under the Mysore State Meteorological Department. In 1951, the office came within the ambit of the India Meteorological Department," A. Prasad, Scientist, IMD, Bengaluru, recounting the history of IMD in Bengaluru.

"Thermometers used to be kept in a thatched shed back then. While in pre-independence times only surface air observation was being carried out, gradually, IMD Bengaluru started taking upper air observation with a balloon. The balloon used to be filled with hydrogen and we used to tie an instrument called radiosonde to it and then release the balloon. It would give the temperature, dew point temperature, wind speed and direction, and relative humidity at various levels in the atmosphere. We used to get data up to 16 - 17 km from the mean sea level which was very useful to study the entire atmospheric profile. The findings from all over the country would then be plotted on a weather map for analysis," he said.

In the present day, the balloon method has been replaced by numeric weather prediction models which are mostly automated. But the synoptic and climatic knowledge of the scientists and the topography of a place is important in analysing the data that is derived from the model, the scientist noted.

Doppler Weather Radar

Every weather enthusiast in Bengaluru has long been asking when the Doppler Weather Radar, which helps in very accurate prediction of weather data, will be installed in the city. Mr. Prasad said that if everything goes well, then 2024 might be the year when the radar would be installed.

"We are looking at sites now. A land parcel was purchased near Hessarghatta earlier for this purpose, but it was not convenient because of the technicalities. The first criterion for a radar is that it should be on an elevated place where there are no obstructions, but in Bengaluru, there are skyscrapers everywhere. We have shortlisted some locations which cannot be disclosed. We are hopeful that the installation will happen in 2024," he said.

Apart from the radar, the State will also get new weather tech such as lightning sensors and wind profilers to study upper atmosphere winds.

Observatories

The IMD Bengaluru currently has three full-time observatories – Bengaluru City, Kempegowda International Airport, and HAL Airport – and 25 to 30 rain gauges. Across the State, there are also full-time observatories in Chitradurga, Gadag, Belagavi, Kalaburagi, and Karwar where eight readings are taken in a day. In Mysuru, Honnavar, and Dharwad there are part-time observatories which take three readings in a day. There are also over 400 rainfall stations across the State where only rainfall data is recorded.

Not just regular weather updates, but IMD Bengaluru also provides agricultural forecasts, aviation current updates, and route forecasts which help people plan their transportation among other things.

From Page One

53 departure delays reported at KIA

Apart from the delays, one flight from Chennai was also diverted to KIA and one Air India flight to Mumbai was cancelled. The fog that occurs at KIA is known as radiation fog and it is anticipated during the four months (November to February) between 3 a. m. and 8.30 am. Flight operations during this period are affected at the airport due to poor visibility conditions.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (January 15, Monday), the following articles are available:

- Medical care on India's trains is running late, with passengers at risk **bit.ly/medicalrails**
- The devices that translate quantum effects to computing awesomeness **bit.ly/quantumgates**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

READER'S MAIL

Regulate construction work

Sir, – There is a lot of focus by the authorities on solving traffic congestion and other issues due to large constructions such as malls and residential complexes. There are single unit houses and businesses which are being demolished and redeveloped into multi-storey buildings on small parcels of land. These either do not have parking or have inadequate parking space. These constructions are mostly on narrow streets, making driving and walking difficult. Even during construction, the air and noise pollution is at a peak, not to mention the construction materials that block the road and pavement and also spoil the footpaths. The authorities need to regulate these instead of giving blanket approval for reconstruction.

G. Padmanabhan,
Bengaluru

On white-topping roads

Sir, – As per reports, the BBMP will shortly begin white-topping of 43 roads, including M.G. Road and Bull Temple Road. While M.G. Road, which is an iconic road in the city, is in pristine condition owing to its superior construction and improved maintenance, Bull Temple Road, neglected by authorities for years, was re-asphalted entirely only a fortnight ago.

It is puzzling why the city's governing body is expending huge sums of money on such superfluous projects or duplicate work.

White-topping roads currently incur a cost that is multiple times greater than that of re-asphalting. When numerous city roads, especially interior ones, are plagued with potholes and other flaws that endanger the lives of motorists, the civic body must accord priority to equitably allocate funds to less prominent roads. Even tarred roads can have a lengthy lifespan if built according to standards.

Kamal Laddha,
Bengaluru

Readers can write to letters.bangalore @thehindu.co.in

Markets abuzz with shoppers on Sankranti eve

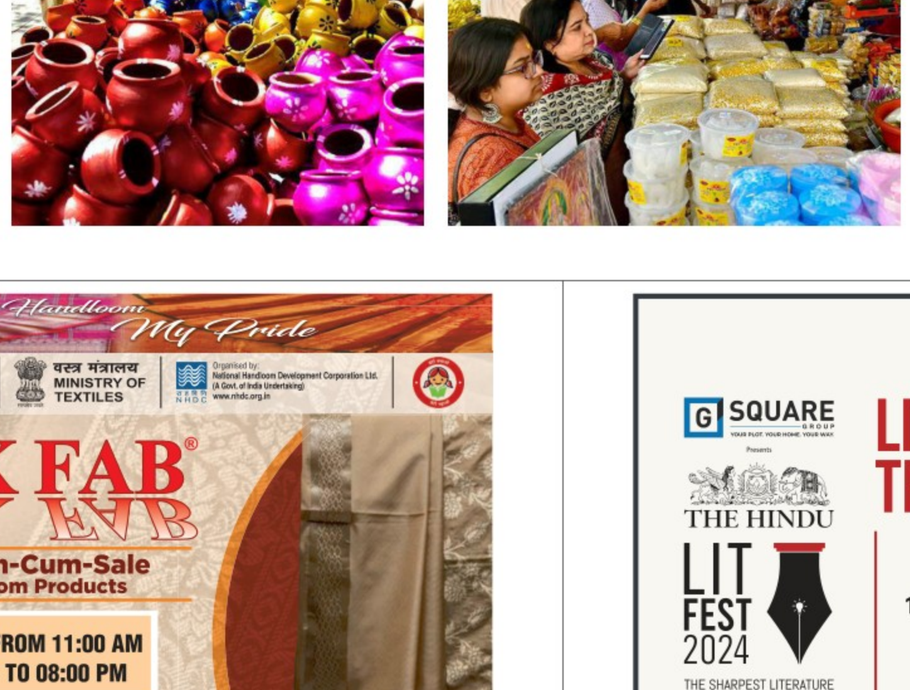
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city's markets were abuzz with shoppers on the eve of Makara Sankranti on Sunday. People were busy shopping *ellu bella*, *sakkare achchu*, sugarcane, avarekai, groundnuts, and sweet potatoes.

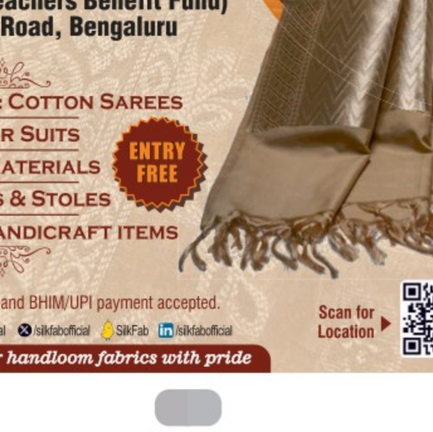
The hike in the prices of the essentials did not seem to have dampened the festive spirit. While *ellu bella* was being sold at ₹350 a kg, the cost of *sakkare achchu* was ₹300 a kg. A stalk of sugarcane was being sold at ₹120. The price of avarekai, which was ₹60 a kg a week ago, had crossed ₹100 mark. Even groundnuts were being sold in the range of ₹80-₹100 a kg.

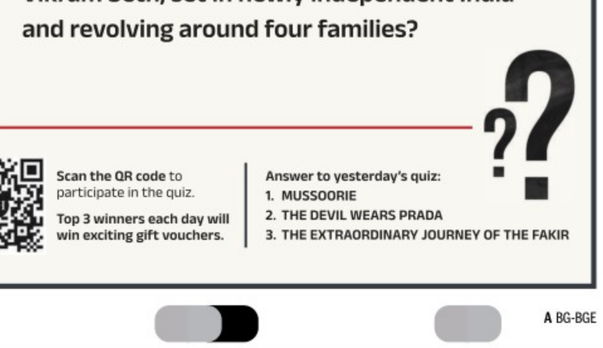
"Like during every festival, the prices of festival essentials is expectedly on the higher side. But for us Telugu-speaking people, this is a big festival and one that marks a change in the season as well. So we ring it in, in a grand way," said Divya Prabha, a resident of Kanakapura Road.

The prices of flowers have also shot up. While kanakambara was being sold at ₹1,000 a kg, the price of jasmine was ₹1,400 a kg, sevantige ₹150, and roses ₹200 a kg.

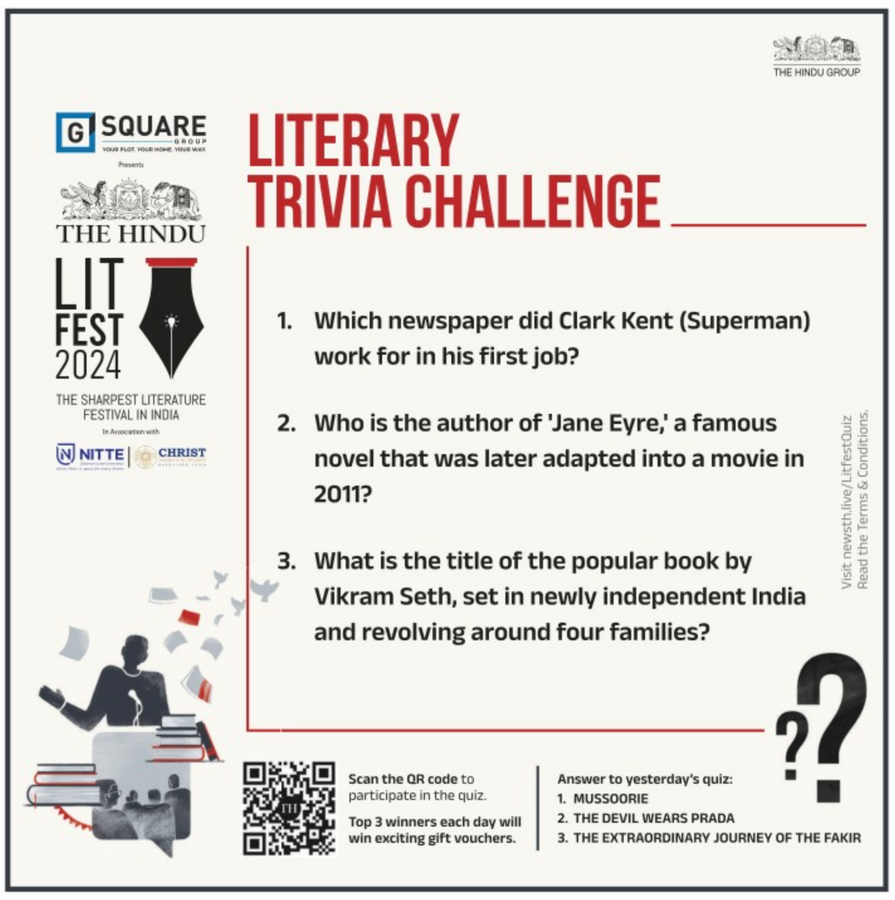


Sights and sounds: K.R. Market and Gandhi Bazaar, among other markets in Bengaluru, were teeming with shoppers on Sunday. Sankranti essentials such as flowers, seasonal fruits and vegetables, sugarcane, *ellu bella*, *sakkare achchu*, and a variety of small containers, including colourful earthen pots, to distribute the festival goodies were in great demand. K. MURALI KUMAR





My Handloom My Pride
Sponsored by: Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms) Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India www.handlooms.nic.in
वस्त्र मंत्रालय MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
Organised by: National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd. (A Govt. of India Undertaking) www.nhdc.org.in
SILK FAB®
Exhibition-Cum-Sale of Handloom Products
05-18 JAN'24
FROM 11:00 AM TO 08:00 PM
Venue:
Shikshak Sadan
(Karnataka State Teachers Benefit Fund)
Kempe Gowda Road, Bengaluru
EXQUISITE SILK & COTTON SAREES
SALWAR SUITS
DRESS MATERIALS
DUPATTAS & STOLES
HANDLOOM & HANDICRAFT ITEMS
Avail Attractive Price
ENTRY FREE
All major Credit & Debit Cards and BHIM/UPI payment accepted.
Follow us on: SilkFab /silkfabofficial /silkfabofficial SilkFab /silkfabofficial
Scan for Location
India's rich heritage - wear handloom fabrics with pride


THE HINDU GROUP
G SQUARE GROUP
YOUR PLOT. YOUR HOME. YOUR WAY
Presents
THE HINDU
LIT FEST 2024
THE SHARPEST LITERATURE FESTIVAL IN INDIA
In Association with
NITTE
CHRIST
LITERARY TRIVIA CHALLENGE
1. Which newspaper did Clark Kent (Superman) work for in his first job?
2. Who is the author of 'Jane Eyre,' a famous novel that was later adapted into a movie in 2011?
3. What is the title of the popular book by Vikram Seth, set in newly independent India and revolving around four families?
Visit newsth.live/LitfestQuiz
Read the Terms & Conditions.
Scan the QR code to participate in the quiz.
Top 3 winners each day will win exciting gift vouchers.
Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. MUSSOORIE
2. THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3. THE EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY OF THE FAKIR

PULSE-CHECK

Global surgery: why access to essential surgery is important

This focuses on equitable access to emergency and essential surgery. It encompasses a range of challenges including inaccessibility, disease burden, and economic burden

Siddhesh Zadey
Aiman Perween Afsar
Maithili. K

GETTY IMAGES

Global surgery is the neglected stepchild in global health. The neglect is more shocking in South Asia which has the largest population globally lacking access to essential surgery.

What is global surgery?
Global surgery focuses on equitable access to emergency and essential surgery. While it predominantly focuses on low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), it also prioritises access disparities and under-served populations in high-income countries (HICs). These "surgeries" include essential and emergency surgeries such as surgery, obstetrics, trauma, and anaesthesia (SOTA). Despite small differences, there is largely a consensus across multiple international groups on about thirty procedures that fall under the umbrella of emergency and essential surgery.

How far back does global surgery go?
The year 2015, can be considered the "Annus Mirabilis" or the miracle year for global surgery. It proved to be an inflection point in recognising the importance of surgical care on a global scale. One key development that played a significant role in this transformation was the Disease Control Priorities Network (DCPN) report on essential surgery sponsored by the World Bank which highlighted that emergency and essential surgical care is cost-effective; scaling up surgical systems is cost-beneficial; and that there is a large disease burden that is surgically avertable.

The second development was *The Lancet* Commission on Global Surgery (LCoGS) which brought together experts and stakeholders to examine the status of surgical care access around the world; ideate the indicators for monitoring surgical care preparedness; systemic capacity and impact; and to develop implementable strategies such as the national surgical, obstetrics, and anaesthesia plan (NSOAP). This paved the way for arguably the most important high-level policy and political commitment to surgery, which is the passage of the World Health Organization Declaration on Safe Surgery (WHO Resolution 68.15) which recognised the impossibility of universal health coverage in the absence of required commitment to emergency and essential surgical systems.

While 2015 set the stage for popular global surgery, it is critical to note that the history of the field as a whole goes back several decades. The exchange of knowledge and bilateral sharing of trainees under surgical missions in humanitarian settings across various parts of the world in the last century can be considered global. Given the focus on reducing disparities, people have also rightly argued that surgeons committed to delivering care in rural and remote parts of the world found global surgery several decades before 2015.

How big of a problem is it?
The magnitude of problems of global surgery is substantial, encompassing a range of challenges including inaccessibility, disease burden, and economic burden.

The LCoGS noted that five billion people or over 70% of the global population lack timely access to safe and affordable surgical care when needed. Most severely, 99% and 96% of the people in low- and lower-middle-income countries (LLMICs) respectively, face access gaps compared to 24% in high-income countries (HICs), which points to a glaring global disparity. Of the five billion people, over 1.6 billion people lacking access live in South Asia. This translates to over 98% of the South Asian population lacking access to safe and affordable SOTA care.

Lack of access is tied to disease burden. In 2010, around 17 million deaths were attributed to surgically treatable conditions, surpassing the combined mortality burden of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria – emphasising the need for improved access. Work from the Global Surg Collaborative has noted that peri-operative mortality is the third most common cause of death just below ischemic heart disease and stroke. This is partly due to the lack of timely care, unsafe surgeries, and limited capacity of surgical systems. Further, the DCPN comprehensively assessed the disease burden in LMICs that can be averted by scaling up surgical services at district hospitals. It found LMICs to have over 77 million surgically avertable Disability-Adjusted Life-Years (DALY) that formed 3.5% of the total disease burden in these countries. Among regions, South Asia had a higher DALY rate than the LMIC average. South Asia contributed to 50.46%, 32.49%, 26.67%, and 33.35% of the surgically avertable burden of neonatal and maternal diseases, congenital anomalies, digestive conditions, and injuries respectively.

The disease burden also leads to an economic burden. The cumulative projected loss to GDP due to the absence of scale-up of surgical care are estimated to be $20.7 trillion (in purchasing power parity terms) across 128 countries by 2030. The annual loss in societal welfare was about $14.5 trillion for 175 countries. South Asia contributes to about 7% of the global lost welfare.

What is being done?
Regardless of the disease and economic burden, surgery gets neglected in policies and health planning at the international level. The LCoGS noted that surgery contributed to <1% of all indicators mentioned in the World Bank, WHO, UNICEF, and other reports. Neglect is also present in national policymaking. An analysis of National Health Strategic Plans from 43 African countries noted that 19% did not mention surgery or surgical conditions at all while 63% mentioned surgery only five times or less. Similarly, an analysis of 70+ years of policymaking in India also noted limited and decreasing attention to surgery. The most recent National Health Policy (2017) had only two mentions of the partial phrase – "surg". While *The Lancet* Commission on Global Cancer Surgery noted that surgery is central to national cancer control plans, India's new guidelines on non-communicable diseases (2023) that focuses on cancer heavily has sparse mention of surgery.

While national health account data on funding for surgery is limited, data from other sources such as the Developmental Assistance for Health (DAH) points to neglect in funding for surgery and related areas. DAH contributions to trauma care are <$1 per DALY compared to $41 per DALY for HIV or $25 for tuberculosis. While U.S. charitable organisations and foundations have spent several million on surgical care in LMICs, these are driven mainly toward specific diseases such as cleft palate, obstetric fistula, and ophthalmic issues, leaving strengthening surgical systems up to individual countries. For example, of the $105 million spent by 470 U.S. foundations from 2003 to 2013, only $7.1 million and $1.7 million went to the training of local surgical providers, and infrastructure respectively.

Neglect is also observed in research. A cursory bibliometric analysis reveals that in 2022, there were only 315 'global surgery' titles (1.5%) in the *Pubmed* database compared to 21,453 'global health' titles. Research is in turn tied to research funding. For instance, the biggest research funder for healthcare in the U.S. is the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In 2021, NIH funded 1,500 large research projects (R01 grants) worth $750 million of which only 40 projects worth $22 million were related to surgery and only one was about global surgery. Neglect in policy, financing, and research and all interrelated with one driving another.

What next?
The above might present a daunting picture but challenges in global surgery are solvable. Work from LCoGS and DCPN depicted that emergency and essential surgical care is cost-effective and cost-beneficial. At least 30 LLMICs now have some subnational data on their surgical care indicators – the largest one being India. Several African countries have drafted and implemented NSOAPs showing strong political and policy commitment since 2015. In South Asia, Pakistan has formulated a National Surgical Care Vision, Nepal has initiated an NSOAP, and the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana has provided millions of surgeries at zero or negligible cost to the bottom 40% of Indians. Research and innovation, policy focus, and sustained financing are key to solving global surgery challenges.

Aiman Perween Afsar and Maithili. K are researchers at the Association for Socially Applicable Research (ASAR). Siddhesh Zadey is a co-founding director of ASAR.

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

This office can easily double up as a hall

When you compare this room with the one we saw yesterday, this is much better

S. Upendran

"How is the house hunting coming along? Has your cousin found anything?"

"It's proving to be difficult. I took her to fifteen different places, and she had a problem with every one of them."

"Why didn't she like the flat in the building next to yours?"

"Not enough rooms, she said. She needs a separate room for the office."

"The bedroom is huge. It can easily double as an office."

"Double as an office? What do you mean?"

"When you say that the bedroom can double as an office, what you're suggesting is that it can be used both as a bedroom and an office."

"In other words, the bedroom has a double or a second function!"

"Exactly! Here's an example. For the past few months, my cousin, who is a teacher of English, has been doubling as the PT master."

"Poor chap! When my sister and I were young, our dining table used to double as our study desk."

"It's also possible to say 'double up as'. My father tells me when he was growing up, not many houses had dining tables. The kitchen used to double up as the dining room."

"There are times when the lead singer in our band doubles up as the drummer."

"Wow! I wish I had such talent."

"Tell me, is there a difference in meaning between 'compare' and 'liken'?"

"What do you think 'compare' means? When you compare two things...."

"Well, when you compare two things, you look for similarities. For example..."

"Similarities, yes! But is that all? What about differences? Do you..."

"Differences? I thought you looked for differences when you contrasted two things. Not when you compared them."

"It's true when you contrast two things, you look at only the differences. But when you compare two things, you look for both similarities and differences."

"In other words, when I compare, I try to find out in what ways the two things are alike and in what ways they are different."

"Exactly! This is something we all do before buying anything. The couple compared the new model with the old one, and decided to buy the old one.

"Before buying a new smartwatch, you should read this article. The author compares all the models that are currently popular."

"That's a great example. Now, let's move on to 'liken'. When you liken something to something else, you are pointing out only the similarities between the two."

"So, in this case, I'm not focussed on the differences."

"Exactly! It is always 'likened to something/someone'. The ten-year-old star has been likened to Roger Federer."

upendrankye@gmail.com

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The Ranji Trophy is one of the most prominent domestic cricket championships in India. A quiz on the premier competition

Soorya Prakash. N

QUESTION 1
This individual was born on the date when Sachin Tendulkar made his Ranji Trophy debut. He would later on be Tendulkar's unbeaten partner at the other end when the latter played his last Ranji Trophy match for Mumbai. Name him.

QUESTION 2
Which team has the distinction of having recorded both the highest and lowest team total in an innings in Ranji Trophy history?

QUESTION 3
Only two bowlers have performed a hat-trick in the Ranji Trophy final. Who are they?

QUESTION 4
What is the similarity between the feats of Premangsu Chatterjee and Pradeep Sundaram?

QUESTION 5
This is the highest partnership in Ranji Trophy history, after Independence, and it is yet to be broken. Identify the players and name the feat.

Visual question:
Identify this player.

Questions and Answers to the January 12 edition of the daily quiz: 1. This character from the Batman comics makes his first appearance in this story of the Detective Comics #27 series in 1939. **Ans: Jim (detective) Gordon and The Case of the Chemical Syndicate**
2. The first actor and the most recent actor to play Batman. **Ans: Lewis Wilson and Robert Pattinson**
3. Adam West had a guest role in *Batman: The Animated Series.* True or false? **Ans: True**
4. This actor voiced almost every iteration of Batman in cartoons, animated movies or video games. **Ans: Kevin Conroy**
5. This actor has lent his voice to 'The Joker'. **Ans: Mark Hamill**
6. This person has not voiced Batman among the four: Will Arnett, Keanu Reeves, Jensen Ackles, Josh Brolin. **Ans: Josh Brolin**
Visual: This actor reprised his role as Batman in this movie along with two others. **Ans: Michael Keaton in *The Flash* with Ben Affleck and George Clooney**
Early Birds: Dhanush. M| Gaurav

Word of the day

Mangle:
injure badly by beating; alter so as to make unrecognisable; damage or injure severely (as a verb)

Synonyms: maul, murder, mutilate

Usage: *He routinely mangles grammar.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/manglepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈmæŋ.gəl/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Prestige NEW YEAR BONANZA

BRING HOME INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS THIS NEW YEAR FROM PRESTIGE

75 Years of Prestige

***Offer Valid from 23rd Dec 2023 to 28th Jan 2024.**

India's First Spillage Control Flip-on Tri-ply Pressure Cooker

Buy any Flip-on Tri-ply Pressure Cooker (3L & above) (1 unit) and **Get** Omega Deluxe Granite Twin Pack (1 Set) worth ₹2 150.00 **FREE**
(Concave Tawa 25 cm (1 unit) and Fry Pan 20 cm (1 unit)
Offer also applicable on the purchase of Tri-ply Outer-lid and Inner-lid series (3L & above).

Cook Efficiently with India's only Automatic Whistle Counter Induction Cooktops

Buy any Induction Cooktop with Whistle Counter (1 unit) **Get 15%** Discount and **₹500.00 Off** on MRP for Popular Svachh Stainless Steel Pressure Cooker (5L) (1 unit)

Revolutionary Easy Clean Design

Buy any Svachh™ Glass Top Gas Stove (1 unit) **Get 15%** Discount on MRP and also Get Xpress Induction Cooktop worth ₹2 895.00 (1 unit) **FREE**

All In One Mixer Grinder with 14 Functionalities

POWERFUL 1000W MOTOR

WARRANTY ON MOTOR 5 YEAR WARRANTY ON MOTOR

SILENTLY POWERFUL GRINDING WITH BALL BEARING MOTOR

14 Functionalities

Buy Endura Pro Mixer Grinder (1 unit) **Get 25%** Discount on MRP and also Get Sandwich Maker worth ₹1 795.00 (1 unit) **FREE**
Offer also applicable on Endura 3, 4, 6 Jar Mixer Grinder & Delight Pro Mixer Grinders.

Presenting India's First Chimney with Safe Sense Technology™

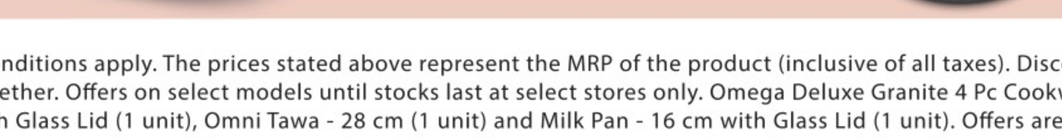
for automatic smoke and gas leak detection

SafeSense™ technology

Controlled through Mobile App - Prestige Smart Chef App

Buy Oscar Safesense Chimney (1 unit) **Get 30%** Discount on MRP and also Get Royale Plus Glass Top Gas Stove (3B) worth ₹12 395.00 (1 unit) **FREE**

Omega Deluxe Granite Cookware Set, India's First 5-layered Durable Non-stick



Buy Omega Deluxe Granite 4Pc Cookware (1 set) **Get 20% Discount** on MRP and also Get Svachh Popular Plus Aluminium Pressure Cooker (3L) worth ₹1 780.00 (1 unit) **FREE**

*Conditions apply. The prices stated above represent the MRP of the product (inclusive of all taxes). Discounts are offered on MRP only. No two offers can be clubbed together. Offers on select models until stocks last at select stores only. Omega Deluxe Granite 4 Pc Cookware (1 set) consists of Fry Pan - 24 cm (1 unit), Kadai - 24 cm with Glass Lid (1 unit), Omni Tawa - 28 cm (1 unit) and Milk Pan - 16 cm with Glass Lid (1 unit). Offers are valid in the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Goa only. Prestige® Logo is the registered trademark of TTK Prestige Limited in India. For detailed terms and conditions, visit your nearest Prestige Xclusive / Dealer outlet or visit our website https://shop.ttkprestige.com/new-year-offer-tc

Prestige®

Jo apnon se kare pyaar, woh Prestige se kaise kare inkaar.

CUSTOMER CARE NO 080-6000 4411

Follow 'TTK Prestige' on

PRESTIGE XPERT on WhatsApp 97423 34411

Shop Online on shop.ttkprestige.com

Prestige Xclusive

Outer Ring Road- Hennur Coco, Ph: 7204250679; **Tumkur Rd. 8th Mile T.Dasarahalli,** Ph: 9972541116; **Koramangala, Ph:** 9663515616; **Bull Temple Rd, Ph:** 26609012; **Malleswaram, Ph:** 9448282470; **Rt Nagar Main Rd, Ph:** 41698761; **Ganganagar Cbi Rd, Ph:** 43705914; **Wheeler Rd, Ph:** 25803080; **Kattriguppe Circle, Ph:** 40900685; **Vijayanagar, Ph:** 41330034; **Hsr Bda Cmplx, Ph:** 25726991; **Marathahalli, Ph:** 42197088; **Sanjaynagar, Ph:** 41258300 ; **Banaswadi Ring Rd, Ph:** 41634115; **Jayanagar, Ph:** 9845066549; **J.P.Nagar , Ph:** 41122235, **Rajarajeshwaringr, Ph:** 28603540, 9008418800; **Kengeri Stl Town, Ph:** 28485296; **Rajajinagar, Ph:** 41731224; **B.T.M.Layout , Ph:** 40939168; **Sarjapura Rd, Ph:** 42038646; **Konankunte Cross, Ph:** 26860350; **Nagharabhavi Bda Cmplx, Ph:** 9739004750; **Begur, Ph:** 8073408322; **Vidyaranayapura, Ph:** 9845518824; **Wilson Garden, Ph:** 9480010720; **Brookefield, Ph:** 28541555; **Ramamurthynagar, Ph: 08042049545**; **Kr Puram, Ph:** 8861494277; **Cambridge Layout, Ph:** 42074468; **Kaggadaspura, Ph:** 7306666610; **Kammanahalli, Ph:** 41606044; **Whitefield, Ph:** 40907273; **Chandapura, Ph:** 9036190725; **Dommasandra, Ph:** 9611423555; **Hesarghatta Road, Ph:** 28370400; **Uttarahalli, Ph:** 9986879095; **Anjananagr Magadi Rd, Ph:** 23281206; **Kadugodi, Ph:** 8123042234; **Hosur Rd Huskur Gate, Ph:** 9606406009; **Yelahanka Newtown, Ph:** 8668034376; **Jayamahal Ext, Ph:** 41616484; **Mahalakshmi Lyt, Ph:** 23572233; **Jpnagar 7th Phase, Puttenahalli, Ph:** 41465855; **Kumaraswamy Lyt, Ph:** 08026664702; **Chandralyt, Ph:** 9845146418; **Channasandra, Ph:** 9986369569; **Sheshadripuram, Ph:** 8711090976; **Kasturinagar, Ph:** 08049923166; **Attibele, Ph:** 9341221525; **Jigani, Ph:** 8762069852; **Sarjapura Town, Ph:** 9036373175; **Hosa Rd Junction, Ph:** 9845597099; **Mathikere, Ph:** 6366636592; **Basaveshwaranagar, Ph:** 9739591008; **Thalagatapura,Vajarahalli, Ph:** 9964116888; **Hegganahalli, Ph:** 28360289; **Gottigere, Ph:** 8431241099;**Amruthahalli, Ph:** 9141169883; **Ullal, Ph:** 9686646565; **Jayanagar 4th Block East Extension, Ph:** 9945446335; **Nelamangala, Ph:** 9632356627; **Kolar, Ph:** 9738882584; **Channapatna, Ph:** 9686661294; **Madhugiri, Ph:** 9611552805; **Gauribidanur, Ph:** 8317399465; **Gubbi, Ph:** 9035195120, 8095459040; **Banshankari Stage 2, Bda Complex, Ph:** 49890679, 9740677740; **Vijayabank Colony, Bilekahalli, Ph:** 8970366139; **Whitefield, Ph:** 080 4090 7273; **Malur, Ph:** 9845028859; **Kumbalagodu, Ph:** 9845014860; **Devanahalli, Ph:** 9845737576; **Thanisandra, Ph:** 9686340159; **E.City Phase 1, Ph:** 7557000060; **Hulimavu, Ph:** 8904654433; **Singanayakanahalli, Ph:** 9591059156; **Anekal, Ph:** 8660070202; **Tiptur**, Ph: 9164688773; **Ramnagar, Ph:** 9686661294; **Bhyadarahalli, Ph:** 9845982089; **Hennur Bande, Ph:** 9980097982; **Tc Palya Road, Ph:** 9148775224; **Chikkajaala, Ph:** 9036202892; **Mutthanallur, Ph:** 8970736606.

Jayanagar: Sarathy, Ph: 41210047; Vishaals, Ph: 08022447285; Royal Mart, Ph: 8790311104; Anjana Super Stores, Ph: 41301836; Kitchenmart, Ph: 26652885; Aravinda, Ph: 41301989; **Sajjan Rao Circle:** Vardhaman Intl, Ph: 8073383878; **Vv Puram:** Kesariya, Ph: 080-41531515; 41131535; **Bankcolony:** Vardhaman Ind, Ph: 22428300; **Banashankari:** Varada Glass & Crky, Ph: 9980949316; Patel Agn, Ph: 26714285; Patel Kitchen Apl, Ph: 9079061706; Chamundi Ind, Ph: 26712633; **Bilekhalli:** Sree Pooja Ha, Ph:9036919084; **Begur Rd:** Hari Om Appl, Ph: 9916107669; **Bommanahalli:**Sri Durga Ha, Ph: 9900674018; **Chamarjpet:**Vadirajstores, Ph: 41517646; **Hosa Rd:** Maharaja Kw, Ph: 9036400829; **Isro Layout;** Bhumi Kitchen, Ph: 9916830850; **Jp Nagar;**Santripti, Ph: 9986699193; S.R.Appl, Ph: 8618846934; M.K.Ahmed Sm, Ph: 9900108877; **Kanakapura Rd:** Royal Mart, Ph: 28425777; **Padmanabnagar:** Royalmart, Ph: 9886088993; **Uttarahalli:**Royalmart, Ph: 26394114; Rme Super Market, Ph: 9964228208; **Mysore Road:** The Karnataka Metal Industry, Ph: 9449342727; **Ayyappanagar:** Top Mart Sm, Ph: 7204448111; **Babusapalya:** Karnataka Ha, Ph: 8105754544; **Basaveshwarnagar:** Bigday Hm, Ph: 9972517344; Mahaveer Ha, Ph: 9845288857; Modern Colln, Ph: 8095758444; Adhinath Kitchen Gal, Ph: 8553583206; **Gayathri Ngr:**J.K.Steel, Ph: 9110806115; **Giri Nagar:** Vidya Ent, Ph: 9449988650; **Bagalgunte:** Royal Mart, Ph: 9538000072; **Chandra Layout:** Rajguru Kw, Ph: 8792686851; Pavan Kw, Ph: 8618028319; Milan Ha, Ph: 7411738812; **Ganganagar:**Patel Ind, Ph: 8050899296; Salem Ind, Ph: 9880795414; Bhagavathi Kitchenware, Ph: 8762161579; **Hanumanthanagar:** Home Studio, Ph: 9945933111; Kamal Appliances, Ph: 9008800881; **Hesargatta Main Rd:** Royal Mart, Ph: 28398200; **Horamavu:** Mamtha Ha, Ph: 8880050050; **Hbr Layout:** Bhavani Ha, Ph: 9845916164; **Harlur** Vinayaka Ha, Ph: 7760531454; **Katriguppe:** Mk Metal Mart, Ph: 9035779199; **Kr Puram:** Srm Elect, Ph: 9845445748; Pooja Ele And Mob, Ph: 9738850503; **Kammanahalli:** Ramdev Steel, Ph: 7259575732; Hm Traders, Ph: 9964797616; **Konenkunte Cross:** Mahalaxmi Elct & Ha, Ph: 8123203588; **Kasavanahalli:** Mathaji Ha, Ph: 8880796036; **Kengeri;** Alankar Elec, Ph: 8762805452; **Koramangala:** Sowbhagya Traders, Ph: 7337733887; **Kmr Swy Layout:** Bhoomi Kitchen, Ph: 9036850850; Patel Ha, Ph: 8951979665; **Laggere:** Top Mart, Ph: 9110246047; **Lnpura:** Arihanth Ent, Ph: 7899633338; **Malleshwaram:** Deviprasad Ha, Ph: 23564536; Bright Novelty, Ph: 23343505; **Mathikere:** M.Bhawarlals Inc, Ph: 41724740; Maharaja Agency, Ph: 41278050; **Kadugodi:** Little Wonder, Ph: 9961224224; **Madiwala:** Surya Ha, Ph: 9449635332; **Malleshpalya:** Bajrang Ha, Ph: 9449526463; New Bheru Ha, Ph: 9448680738; Ramdev Ha, Ph: 9035175860; Sri Bhagawathi Ha, Ph: 9590575427; Maa Ambe Ha, Ph: 8884198322; Maruthi Ha, Ph: 9952660769; **Magadiroad:** Kesariya, Ph: 6361685271; Royal Mart, Ph: 23584498; **Annaporneshwari Nagar:** Deepak Ha, Ph: 9148912736; **Iti Lyaout:**Radhakrishna Ent, Ph: 9739198531; **M S Palya:** Royal Mart, Ph: 8147014079; **B Narayanpura:** Yellow Mart, Ph: 7676726487; **Rajajinagar:** Mahalakshmi Metal House, Ph: 23355994; Rathna Sales, Ph: 23375566; Dhanalakshmi Kitchen World , Ph: 41285801; Jayalakshmi Kw, Ph: 9844755146; R S Mart, Ph: 6363602929; Pooja Stl Cent, Ph: 23327014; Vardhaman Intl, Ph: 080-40974556; **Rajankunte:** Rmr Super Market, Ph: 9108636912; **Rr Nagar:** Milan Ha, Ph: 28605619; Pavan Kg, Ph: 9739207043; **Tavarakere:**Mytri Mart Sm, Ph: 9036466761; **T C Palya:** Rhk Super Mkt, Ph: 9731668995; Karnataka Ha, Ph: 6363064024; **Tipsandra:** Pawar Ha, Ph: 9980517021; Milan Ha, Ph: 9986196375; Ramdev Ha, Ph: 7406901545; **Ulsoor:** Aishwaryapranam Hn, Ph: 9902788429; Pranam Steel Center, Ph: 9448053781; **Udaynagar:** Mother India, Ph: 9036189765; **Madanayakana Halli:** Vardhaman Intl, Ph: 8553170346; **Venkatapura:** Pooja Kg, Ph: 9900426176; **Vijayanagar:** Mahendras, Ph: 9986102112; Vijaylaxmi Kw, Ph: 9845022284; Maruthi Ha, Ph: 8904689155; **Vidyarnapura:** Praksh Kw, Ph: 8050620877; Mahalakshmi Steel House, Ph: 9663375159; All Seasons Hm, Ph: 9946728736; **Whitefield:** Little Wonder, Ph: 7975372794; Rolla Hm, Ph: 9148003448; Loyalcity, Ph: 8884046890; Royal Mart, Ph: 7079734574; **Yelahanka:** Royalmart, Ph: 41705760; Mutha Electricals, Ph: 22971920; Sai Kitchen World, Ph: 9632811797; Sai Ram Ka, Ph: 6362506002; **Btm Layout:** Patel Agencies, Ph: 9482853401; **Indranagar;** Kitchen Expert , Ph: 7350436750; **Lalbagh Road:** Mohankheda Impex, Ph: 9986198760; **Nagrathpet;** Mahipal Entpr, Ph: 41248070; Mahadev Dist, Ph: 41514943; Shubham Home Appliances, Ph: 9448674150; Bhagawathi Ha, Ph: 9663850009; Marudhar Ha, Ph: 9945444454; Ramdev Metal, Ph: 8618014985; Puckraj & Sons, Ph: 9448771841; B M Agencies, Ph: 9886617028; Bhagavti Spares, Ph: 9513992993; Pramod Steel, Ph: 9844074193; Jainam Marketing, Ph: 9036783828; Usha Home Ind, Ph: 41519106; Karnataka Metal Ind, Ph: 9844515458; Renuka Mktg, Ph: 41224591; Pooja Dist, Ph: 41234022; **Bvk Iyengar Rd;** Jain Wire Emporium, Ph: 080-41249274; Crockery World, Ph: 9845025420; Manglik Mktng, Ph: 9448970501; Shah Gulab Chand & Sons, Ph: 080-41222095; **Chickpet:** Mahesh Dist, Ph: 9916086085; **Varhtur:** Kitchen Kettles, Ph: 9148994805; **Haraluru:** Maharaja Kitchen World, Ph: 9036400829; **Hsr Layout:** Pawan Kitchen World, Ph: 8618220896; Nandi Kitchen Wd, Ph: 9686549035; **Muddanapalya;** Sri Balaji Innov, Ph: 9611176529; **Electronics City:** Dream Mart Hm, Ph: 9902734586; Village Hm, Ph: 9663966121; **Hegde Nagar:** All Market, Ph: 8892959570; **Tumkur:**N.R Metal Agency, Ph: 0816-2275003; Kavitha Kitchen Needs, Ph: 9538537166; Surya Metal Store, Ph: 9731351050; Tumkur Trade Centre, Ph: 9901432287; Darshan Ha, Ph: 9632132567; Sudha Ha, Ph: 9964011253; Niketana Trading Co, Ph: 9538826927; **Gubbi:**Keerthi Gas Stove, Ph: 9686004169; **Tiptur:** Sri Sai Electronics, Ph: 8861432166; Sri Rama-Ent, Ph: 9880362018; Kumar And Kumar, Ph: 9141609900; **Turuvekere:**Sri Sai Electronics, Ph: 8861432166; **Pavgada:**Shivanagere Ha, Ph: 9880768236; Meenakshi Appl, Ph: 9880360326; **Sira:**Swamy Ent, Ph: 9741561491; Lakshmi Steel, Ph: 9060434807; Mallikarjuna Home Appliances, Ph: 8123206930; **Madhugiri:**Vinayaka Store, Ph: 9900219291; **Kunigal:**Karnataka Metal Stores, Ph: 9448550390; New Karnataka Steel Centre, Ph: 08132221548; Karnataka Home Appliances, Ph: 8892197645; **Chiknayakakanhalli:** Mustafa Elec, Ph: 8861729784; **Huliyar:**Abhi Electronics, Ph: 9448668833; **Kgf-**Prakash Ha, Ph: 9845113454; **Bangarpet-**Kumar Stores, Ph: 9845935240; **Gauribidanur:**Sri Raju Hn, Ph: 9448249527; Dhighvijaya Elec, Ph: 7204757456; **Kanakapura:**Sri Kabbalamma Ha, Ph: 9880835508; **Kolar:**Rakesh Ele, Ph: 9880634555; Naveenprakash Ha, Ph: 9844997787; **Malur:**Srm Elec, Ph: 9845445748; Reddy Ele, Ph: 9844435121; **Vijayapura-**Rmcity, Ph: 9845164990; Reddy Ele, Ph: 9900336061; **Devanahalli:**New Sowmya Ele, Ph: 9141335210; Reddy Elec, Ph: 9731001577; **Chintamani:**Great India Ele, Ph: 9742963551; Lavanya Stores, Ph: 9242498294.

Over 900 guest teachers at Maulana Azad Model Schools go without salary for four months

This is owing to fund crunch in the Minority Welfare Department and administrative issues with Finance Department

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Over 900 guest teachers at Maulana Azad Model Schools have not received their salary for over four months now. This is owing to fund crunch in the Minority Welfare Department and administrative issues with the Finance Department.

The Maulana Azad Model Schools, run by the Minority Welfare Department for students of the minority communities, started by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah-led government in 2017-18, have been mired in multiple administrative tangles and lack of funds.

The Hindu in December 2023 reported that with less than four months for the academic year to end, students of these schools had not received uniforms. Though the supply of uniforms has begun, not all schools have got them yet.

The Maulana Azad Model Schools, run by the Minority Welfare Department for students of the minority communities, were started by the Siddaramaiah-led government in 2017-18. FILE PHOTO

This comes even as Mr. Siddaramaiah recently sought a ₹1,000 crore action plan for the development of minority-dominated localities in the State, drawing the ire of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Started in 2017-18

The State government started 100 Maulana Azad Model Schools in 2017-18 for which the Finance Department approved 700 teaching posts, including 100 headmasters and guest faculty members.

However, the department did not approve any teaching posts at another 100 schools started in 2018-19. Nevertheless, the Minority Welfare Department went ahead and recruited 929 guest teachers, including headmasters, for these 100 schools and has been running them since then, paying their salaries out of its own funds.

However, owing to a fund crunch in the department, these 929 guest teachers, whose postings have not been approved by the Finance Department, have not been getting their salary for over four months now.

"Our life is dependent on this monthly remuneration with no other source of income. We haven't got our salaries for the past four months now. We are not aware as to why we haven't got our salary. We appeal to the government to release our salary immediately," said one of the guest teachers.

'Issues being resolved'

Jeelani H. Mokashi, Director, Directorate of Minorities, said that administrative issues with the Finance Department were being resolved and added that the guest teachers would get their salary soon.

"The Maulana Azad Model Schools, which were started during Mr. Siddaramaiah's previous tenure, were completely neglected during the BJP regime. It is unfortunate that these schools continue to be dogged by fund crunch and apathy even after Mr. Siddaramaiah has come back to power. We hope that he gives attention to the issues plaguing these schools," said Chand Pasha, advocate and social activist from Ramanagara.

Contract Railway employee held for sexually assaulting U.K. tourist on train

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Railways has since suspended him; incident took place on Hampi Express

The Railway Police in the city on Saturday arrested a contract employee of the Indian Railways for sexually assaulting a 30-year-old woman traveller from the United Kingdom on Hampi Express between Hosapete and Bengaluru on Wednesday. The accused took advantage of her sickness, offered help, and sexually assaulted her, according to the police.

Shocked and exhausted by the ordeal, the victim managed to reach the hotel she had booked and informed her friend over the phone before approaching the police.

Based on the complaint on Thursday, the city Railway Police swung into action and tracked down the accused, Basavaraj, 22, hailing from Bagalkot, who was in charge of bed rolling in the train. He was arrested on Saturday and booked under section 354A (whoever engages in unwelcome and explicit sexual behaviour, demands sexual favours) of the IPC. However, he was released on bail by the court. The Railways has suspended him.

The victim, in her complaint, said she is in India on a tourist visa and had visited Kerala and Tamil Nadu before visiting Hampi. She booked a return ticket on Hampi Express and boarded the train on Wednesday night.

Sought medical help

Since the victim had an upset stomach, she could not climb the upper berth and requested a co-passenger for an exchange of berths. As per the complaint, the ordeal began exactly an hour after the train left Hosapete, as she developed severe stomach ache and couldn't bear the pain. The victim said she asked for medical help from a person who was moving in the coach frequently and looked like a Railway employee wearing a kind of a tag of identity card on his neck.

The accused approached her on the pretext of helping her and reportedly took her to the sink near the toilet. The accused allegedly forced her to lie down on a vacant berth near the sink and closed the curtains. The victim said there were no passengers nearby and taking advantage of that, the accused started massaging her stomach and soon touched her private parts.

He allegedly came near her face and tried to kiss her and allegedly touched her inappropriately, which she resisted. "As I was seriously sick I could not push him back. Whenever I tried to escape from his clutches, he grabbed me to the bed again," the victim said in her complaint.

The victim said she could not shout and could not alert the co-passengers thinking that he would do more harm as she was very weak. The accused allegedly continued to assault and sexually harass her from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m., until she managed to go back to her seat and the accused left the place.

Ex-BDA official, now 90, faces case for allotting site to wife fraudulently

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

It took 30 years for the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) vigilance cell authorities to probe and unearth an incident where a former deputy secretary misused his power and forged documents to allot a BDA site to his wife. Now the 90-year-old former official and his 87-year-old wife face a criminal case and have been issued a summons to face an inquiry. However, the former BDA official is bedridden, the police said.

Based on a complaint from the BDA vigilance cell, the Seshadripuram police have registered a case of criminal breach of trust, cheating, and forgery against Shankar Raj Urs B.T. and his wife, Vijayalakshmi Urs.

In his complaint, Sanjeevrayappa T., police inspector STF and Vigilence, BDA, said the fraud occurred between February 1992 and September 1994 when Shanka Raj Urs was serving in the authority and he allotted a corner site on West of Chord Road III Stage, 4th Block, to his wife not only by misusing his power but also based on forged documents.

Irregularities

The incident came to light when the STF and Vigilance cell, based on a tip-off, verified the documents and found irregularities. Based on the complaint, the police have issued a notice to Shankar Raj Urs and his wife.

Based on their statement, the police will submit a report requesting necessary directions from the court.

Fr. K.A. William resigns as Bishop of Mysuru

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Father K.A. William, who had gone on leave for about a year now, has resigned as Bishop of Mysuru.

Fr. William, who spoke to reporters in Mysuru on Sunday, said he submitted his resignation a few days ago and it was accepted on Saturday. He had been appointed Bishop of Mysuru in February 2017 but had been asked to proceed on leave during January 2023.

Airfares to Ayodhya soar in the run-up to Ram temple inauguration

Tarunya Sanjay
BENGALURU

Ahead of the Ram temple inauguration on January 22 in Ayodhya, many pilgrims from Bengaluru are making a beeline to visit the temple town in Uttar Pradesh. This is evident as airfares to the town have jumped three times, as per searches on multiple travel platforms. Ayodhya, along with Varanasi, is the most searched on travel platforms for check-in on January 19, 20, and 21.

At present, there are no direct flights between Bengaluru and Ayodhya. Air India Express direct flights (tri-weekly) are scheduled to start on January 17. The fares are priced between ₹6,548 and ₹8,799 for travel between January 17 and 22. However, a very limited number of seats are said to be available. The other airline offering flight services to the temple town from Bengaluru is Indigo. However, these are connecting flights with stopovers in Mumbai and Ahmedabad with the travel time ranging from six to nine hours. While fares on these flights for travel on January 16 are between ₹11,558 and ₹13,301, the fares for travel between January 19 and 20 range from ₹22,400 to ₹29,669.

"There has been more than a 100% increase in domestic flight searches week on week for Ayodhya since the launch of the new airport. We are also seeing more than 60% week-on-week increase in train travel searches. In 2023, we saw a surge in demand for cultural and spiritual hubs such as Varanasi and Prayagraj. We expect to see a similar surge for Ayodhya now," said Sai Aadesh of GT Holidays Pvt. Ltd.

Kishore P.S., manager, Travel Manager-Holidays (India) Pvt. Ltd. said that airfares have become extremely expensive in the run-up to the temple's inauguration. "There is very limited connectivity from Bengaluru via flight, only one or two flights would be operating as of now. Given the price, most people are choosing to travel by train," Mr. Kishore said.

Shankar Hariprasad, a retired bank employee who is travelling to the temple town with his family, said he had been planning to travel to Ayodhya since the date of the inauguration was announced. "While the airfares and accommodation costs rose rapidly, we got for ourselves a decent price since we planned in advance," he said.

Shobhit Garg, a software developer who is visiting Ayodhya with his friend, said, "The budget went a bit overboard. But coming from a religious background, we looked at this lifetime opportunity and decided to go ahead and travel to Ayodhya."

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, JAN. 15	
RISE 06:45	SET 18:12
RISE 10:02	SET 22:13
TUESDAY, JAN. 16	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:13
RISE 10:44	SET 23:08
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 17	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:13
RISE 11:26	SET 00:00

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	22
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	30	18

Bengaluru Today
27°C A dry weather to prevail. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night will be slight cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night will be slight cool and hazy.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2024
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G2C
E-Tender No. E/GSU/ELE/2023-24/OT/GeM-02 Dated: 10-01-2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Name of work	Approx. Value
Hiring of man power for Gati Shakti Unit Bengaluru Division for a period of 24 months. **Bid Number: GEM/2024/B/4463326 Dated:10-01-2024**	Rs. 6,26,25,375/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 31-01-2024**
For details log on : https://gem.gov.in
Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer, Gati Shakti Unit, Bengaluru
PUB/623/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G2C
E-Tender Notice No. SE06-2023-24
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites Tenders for the following work:

Name of work	Approx. Value
Provision of standby HT Incomer Power Supply cable & connected works to 11kV Sub station of Central Workshop Mysuru- Mysuru South	Rs. 8,97,910/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11.00 Hrs. on 07-02-2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Divisional Electrical Engineer/Central Workshop / Mysuru
PUB/624/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G2C
E-Tender Notice No.: HE-TRD-2023-24-OT-20 Dated. 10-01-2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Providing Backfilling, Barricading of OHE Structures and Constructions of retaining walls to the OHE Structures in the existing Electrified Sections of Hubballi Division.	Rs. 2,20,50,640.82/-

Last date for submission of bids : **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 07-02-2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer / TRD Hubballi
PUB/626/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G2C
Tender Notice NO. MYS-COMML-13-GMU-2024 Dated :10-01-2024
The under signed on behalf of President of India invites tender for award of license to install and operate one (1) **Catering Stall** (General Minor Unit) at Arsikere Railway Station over Mysuru Division for a period of five years, under the ambit of Catering Policy 2017
Last date closing of tender is: **Upto 12:00 Hrs. on 16-02-2024**
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Mysuru
PUB/622/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G2C
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:
E-TENDER NOTICE No. 02/MYS/2024 of 10-01-2024

Sl.	Item of work	Approx. Value
1	Hassan-Mangaluru Jn. Section: Rehabilitation/Repairs of Bridge No. 419 (2 x 1.22m- RCC Pipe) at Km.114/200-300 between Yedamangala and Narimogaru Stations.	Rs. 99,99,965/-
2	Mysuru-Yeliyur : Through weld renewal 110/000 to 116/300 - 6.3Km.	Rs. 71,60,732/-
3	Assistant Divisional Engineer/Sakleshpur Sub Division: Strengthening of RR Masonry retaining walls and repairs to eroded bed of side drains at scattered locations in Sakleshpur-Subrahmanya Road Section.	Rs. 2,49,70,636/-

E-TENDER NOTICE No. 03/MYS/2024 of 10-01-2024

Item of work	Approx. Value
Annual Maintenance Contract for GPS Trackers in Mysuru Division.	Rs. 6,64,801/-

Last date for submission of bids for above: Tenders: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 01-02-2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Engineer / Co-Ordination Mysuru
PUB/625/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

IDEMI ISO 9001:2015 AS 9100:2016
(A Govt. of India Society)
Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
Organized By IDEMI, Mumbai, Ministry of MSME, Govt of India
Government Certificate Professional Course on
Digital marketing with AI
Course duration 2 Days Dates: 20,21 jan 24 Time: 10:30am-5:30pm
Address: IDEMI extension centre Banglore, Care of MSME development Institute, West of Chord Road Industrial Estate, Rajaji Nagar,Bengaluru,Karnataka- 560010
Email id : training@idemi.org Web : www.idemi.org Ph.: (022) 2405 0301/2/3/4
Contents : Search Engine Optimisation (SEO), Free Block Creations & Earnings, Social Media (Use for Business),Facebook (Free & Paid Marketing), LinkedIn (Professional Use & Advertising),Twitter Use, YouTube and Earnings.
QR Code for Registration and payment:
For Technical Details: 9834360324
Fees: 4500/- +18%GST in the name of IDEMi, Mumbai [lunch and High tea]
Contact: 9886123011,9021290654,9951980554,8275181503

E-TENDER NOTICE
The Indian Hotels Company Limited – Karnataka Region
Invite quotations from established suppliers for the supply of the following items on Annual Rate Contract basis from 1st April, 2024 to 31st March, 2025 for **Taj West End Bengaluru, Taj MG Road Bengaluru, Taj Yeshwantpur Bengaluru, Taj Bangalore Airport, Vivanta Bengaluru Residency Road, Vivanta Bengaluru Whitefield and Taj SATS Air Catering Limited Bengaluru** of Karnataka for the below mentioned categories.
A) Indian Fruits, Indian Vegetables, Exotic Vegetables, Imported Vegetables, Provisions, Atta–Maida, Dry Fruits, Chaat Items, Cut Vegetables, Coconut & tender Coconut, Grated Coconut, Peeled items, Green Peas & Corn, Egg, Milk, Milk Products, Bakery Products, Fresh & Chilled Mutton, Fresh & Chilled Fish & Sea Food, Fish Fillet Frozen, Pork Meat, Buffalo Meat, Ice Cream, Fresh Noodles & Wanton Sheets, Vinegar, Exotic Fruits, Frozen ready to Eat items, Micro Green, Saffron & Tofu.
B) Wood Charcoal, Fresh Flower, Dry Ice, Ice Cubes & Blocks
Vendors can registered through accessing the below link in order to obtain the registration forms / Tender forms. Quotes to be submitted online only, Print out or physical copies should not be submitted. E-Tender online portal will be available from **15th January, 2024 till 5th February 2024** on the below mentioned credentials. For tender form allocation to those who aspire to apply should remit online Rs.1000.00 (non refundable) for obtaining the tender forms in each Category. Tender forms duly filled along with Quotations should be submitted online on or before **5th Feb, 2024**. All Tenderers proposing to apply should HAVE ALL THE MANDATORY LICENCES REQUIRED TO CONDUCT BUSINESS AND SHOULD be compliant to FSSAI Act / Rules and Regulations as on date and APPLICABLE FROM TIME TO TIME.
Certification / labelling for all products & temperature for chilled and frozen items as per FSSAI standard is mandatory. HACCP / ISO certified vendors would be preferred.
Window for submitting the initial rates will be open till **12 am on 5th Feb 2024**.
WE THE MANAGEMENT OF **"The Indian Hotels Company Limited – Karnataka Region"** RESERVE THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT / REJECT THE QUOTATIONS.
Contact: Mr. Mohan Papanna
Email: mohan.papanna@tajhotels.com
Contact: 08066605627 / 08066604367 / 08066900233
Link for downloading Tender Documents & for participating E-Tender
https://etendering.tajhotels.com/bengaluru

CLASSIFIEDS MART
TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
Bengaluru: 98455 29981 ■ 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 ■ 2417580
Hubballi: 0836-2338600 ■ 2335700

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL

IAS INTERVIEW
KERALA SAMAJAM IAS ACADEMY, Bengaluru (Since 2011)
Offline Mocks with Feedback from: Eminent Civil Servants and Experts
On 21st & 28th January 2024
Send your DAFs (I and II) to: WhatsApp: 8431414491
ATTEND AND ENSURE IAS
ONLINE MOCKS ALSO AVAILABLE

BUSINESS OFFERS

ATTENTION TOOLS / EQUIPMENT SUPPLIER
URGENTLY NEED
Huge supply of Tools for ARTISAN / CRAFT MATERIALS
Tailor | Barber
Basket Maker | Mason
Carpenter | Potter
Please scan QR for more details:
5, 1st Floor, 3rd Street, R.K. Salai, Chennai - 600 004.
sreramvasudevan@gmail.com
Contact : +91 98400 49759
82480 73701 / 96552 49130

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS
(Ordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction)
Arb.OP. (com) No. 441/2023

M/S Tamil Nadu Teachers Housing
And welfare Trust, rep by its Managing Trustee
Mr.M.Viswanathan ..... Petitioner

Vs

Sri.K.Venkaetsh Reddy & another
....Respondents

To,
M/s. JSM Infra Ventures rep by Mr.J.S. Madhusudhan
No. B 2.BTM 1st Stage
BG Main Road, Bengaluru - 560029
... 2nd RESPONDENT

Please take notice that on behalf of our client Mr.M.VIswanathan, Managing Trustee of M/S Tamil Nadu teachers Housing and Welfare Trust , we filed the above Arbitration Original Petition before the Hon'ble High Court of Madras for appointment of Arbitrator. In the said case came up before His Lordship Mr.Justice C. Saravanan on 03.01.2024, His Lordship was pleased to ordered notice to you by way of publication in your Magazine, and returnable by 30.01.2024 for your appearance. Hence please be appear by person or by pleader on the above said date at 10.30.a.m before the Hon'ble Court failing which this matter will be decided on merits in your absence.

M/S. V.MANOHARAN
T.GUNASEKAR
Advocates,
No.111.New Law Chambers,
High Court, Chennai-104

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು

ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ದತ್ತಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಭಾರತ್ ಗೌರವ್ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಯಾತ್ರಾ

ರಾಮೇಶ್ವರ – ಕನ್ಯಾಕುಮಾರಿ – ಮದುರೈ – ತಿರುವನಂತಪುರಂ

ಯಾತ್ರಾರಂಭ : 18-01-2024 ರಿಂದ ಐಆರ್‌ಸಿಟಿಸಿ / ಐಟಿಎಂಎಸ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಬುಕ್ಕಿಂಗ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಿ

ಸಹಾಯಧನ: ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ಪ್ರತಿ ಯಾತ್ರಾರ್ಥಿಗೆ ರೂ.5,000/-

ಯೋಜನೆಯ ವೈಶಿಷ್ಟ್ಯತೆಗಳು:

ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಕಡಿಮೆ ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ

ರಾಮೇಶ್ವರ - ರಾಮೇಶ್ವರ ದೇವಾಲಯ
ಕನ್ಯಾಕುಮಾರಿ - ಶ್ರೀ ಭಗವತಿ ದೇವಾಲಯ
ಮದುರೈ - ಶ್ರೀ ಮೀನಾಕ್ಷಿ ದೇವಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು
ತಿರುವನಂತಪುರಂ - ಶ್ರೀ ಅನಂತಪದ್ಮನಾಭ ಸ್ವಾಮಿ ದೇವಾಲಯಗಳ ದರ್ಶನ

ಯಾತ್ರೆಯ ಒಟ್ಟು ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್ ಮೊತ್ತ : **ರೂ.15,000/-**
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ಸಹಾಯಧನ : **ರೂ. 5,000/-**
ಯಾತ್ರಿಕರು ಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಮೊತ್ತ : **ರೂ.10,000/-** ಮಾತ್ರ

6 ದಿನಗಳ ಯಾತ್ರೆ ಇದಾಗಿದ್ದು, 3 ಟೈರ್ ಎ.ಸಿ. ರೈಲು ಪ್ರಯಾಣ, ತಂಡಿ-ಊಟ, ವಸತಿ ಮತ್ತು ದರ್ಶನ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿದೆ.

ಯಾತ್ರಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಕ್ಷೇಮಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯಿಂದ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಿದೆ.

ರೈಲು ಹತ್ತುವ ಹಾಗೂ ಇಳಿಯುವ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣಗಳ ವಿವರ

ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ | ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ | ಬೀರೂರು | ತುಮಕೂರು | ಹಾವೇರಿ | ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ | ಯಶವಂತಪುರ

ವಿಶೇಷ ರೈಲು ಹೊರಡಲಿರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು

ನಿರ್ಗಮನ 18.01.2024 — ಆಗಮನ 23.01.2024
ನಿರ್ಗಮನ 30.01.2024 — ಆಗಮನ 04.02.2024

ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ.ಕೆ. ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್ ರವರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮುಜರಾಯಿ ಸಚಿವರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ರಾಮಲಿಂಗಾರೆಡ್ಡಿರವರು ಸಭೆ ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ದೃಶ್ಯ

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ದತ್ತಿ ಇಲಾಖಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ದೇವಾಲಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹುಂಡಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ಮೂಲಗಳಿಂದ ಬರುವ ಆದಾಯವನ್ನು ಆಯಾಯಾ ದೇವಾಲಯಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಉಪಯೋಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ವೇತನ

ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ದತ್ತಿ ಇಲಾಖಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಅಧಿಸೂಚಿತ ದೇವಾಲಯ/ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಅರ್ಚಕರು/ನೌಕರರ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ವಿದ್ಯಾಭ್ಯಾಸಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹ ಧನವನ್ನು ವಿತರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ಅರ್ಹ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ತಹಶೀಲ್ದಾರ್ ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಮುಜರಾಯಿ ಶಾಖೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ 31-01-2024ರ ಒಳಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಪದವಿ ಪೂರ್ವ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ (ಪಿ.ಯು.ಸಿ)	ರೂ.5,000/-
ಐ.ಟಿ.ಐ/ಜೆ ಒ ಸಿ/ಡಿಪ್ಲೋಮ	ರೂ.5,000/-
ಪದವಿ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ	ರೂ.7,000/-
ಸ್ನಾತಕೋತ್ತರ ಪದವಿ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ	ರೂ.15,000/-
ಇತರೆ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಕೋರ್ಸ್‌ಗಳು (ಆಯುರ್ವೇದಿಕ್, ಹೋಮಿಯೋಪತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಯುನಾನಿ)	ರೂ.25,000/-
ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ (ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್)	ರೂ.25,000/-
ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ / ಡೆಂಟಲ್ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ	ರೂ.50,000/-
ವಿದೇಶ ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗ	ರೂ.1,00,000/- (ಒಂದು ಬಾರಿ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಮರಣ ಹೊಂದಿದ ಅರ್ಚಕರ / ನೌಕರರ ಕುಟುಂಬಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇವಾ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಧನ

ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ದತ್ತಿ ಇಲಾಖಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಅಧಿಸೂಚಿತ ದೇವಾಲಯ/ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಅರ್ಚಕರು/ನೌಕರರು ಮೃತಪಟ್ಟಲ್ಲಿ ಮೃತರ ಕುಟುಂಬಕ್ಕೆ ರೂ.2.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ಪರಿಹಾರವನ್ನು ನೀಡಲು ಆದೇಶಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ತಹಶೀಲ್ದಾರ್ ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಮುಜರಾಯಿ ಶಾಖೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಅರ್ಚಕರು/ ನೌಕರರಿಗೆ ಯಾತ್ರಾ ಸ್ಥಳ ದರ್ಶನ

ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ದತ್ತಿ ಇಲಾಖಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ 'ಸಿ' ಅಧಿಸೂಚಿತ ದೇವಾಲಯ / ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಅರ್ಚಕರು / ನೌಕರರನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಭಾರತ್ ಗೌರವ್ ಕಾಶಿ-ಗಯಾ ದರ್ಶನ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಭಾರತ್ ಗೌರವ್ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಯಾತ್ರೆ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕವಾಗಿ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ 1200 ಜನ ಅರ್ಚಕರು/ನೌಕರರು ಮತ್ತು ಅವರ ಕುಟುಂಬದ ಒಬ್ಬ ಸದಸ್ಯರನ್ನು ಉಚಿತವಾಗಿ ಯಾತ್ರೆಗೆ ಕಳುಹಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಯಾತ್ರೆಗೆ ಹೋಗಬಯಸುವವರು ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಮುಜರಾಯಿ ಶಾಖೆ ಅಥವಾ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ದತ್ತಿ ಆಯುಕ್ತರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಹೆಸರುಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಂಚಿತವಾಗಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು.

ವಸತಿ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಹಾಯಧನ

ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ವಿವಿಧ ವಸತಿ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಯ್ಕೆಯಾಗುವ 'ಸಿ' ವರ್ಗದ ದೇವಾಲಯಗಳ ಅರ್ಚಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ನೌಕರರು ಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ವಂತಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ನಿಧಿಯಿಂದ ಭರಿಸಿ ಪಾವತಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಅರ್ಹ ಫಲಾನುಭವಿಗಳು ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಮುಜರಾಯಿ ಶಾಖೆ ಅಥವಾ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ದತ್ತಿ ಆಯುಕ್ತರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಮಾಂಗಲ್ಯ ಭಾಗ್ಯ

ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ದತ್ತಿ ಇಲಾಖಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ 'ಎ' ಮತ್ತು 'ಬಿ' ಅಧಿಸೂಚಿತ ದೇವಾಲಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ "ಮಾಂಗಲ್ಯ ಭಾಗ್ಯ" ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಸಾಮೂಹಿಕ ವಿವಾಹಗಳನ್ನು ಆಯೋಜಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ವಧು-ವರರಿಗೆ ರೂ.55,000/-ಗಳ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹ ಧನವನ್ನು ಆಯಾಯ ದೇವಾಲಯಗಳ ನಿಧಿಯಿಂದ ಪಾವತಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಆದಾಯ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಇರುವ ದೇವಾಲಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸದರಿ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹ ಧನವನ್ನು ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ನಿಧಿಯಿಂದ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದು ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಅರ್ಹರಿರುವವರು ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಅಥವಾ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಮುಜರಾಯಿ ಶಾಖೆಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

Book your tickets online at https://www.irctctourism.com - For booking please contact: +91 8595931291, 8595931292, 8595931294

THE HINDU
EDUCATIONPLUS
GET THE EDGE Follow us facebook.com/thehindu twitter.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

Siddharth Rajgarhia

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Magic of pen and paper

From serving as a tool for self-exploration to easing anxiety and boosting memory, the benefits of journaling for students are abundant

What if you were told that a 20-minute activity holds the potential to reduce stress, strengthen writing skills, improve memory, instil problem-solving skills, and inspire goal-setting? Would it motivate you further to know it doesn't have a cost and can be practised in the comfort of your home? The activity is maintaining a journal.

From serving as a tool for self-exploration and improving mental clarity to easing anxiety and boosting memory, the benefits of journalling are abundant, especially for students who are often juggling multiple tasks and are overwhelmed by competitive pressures. Besides, it can also evoke a sense of gratitude and help process emotions on a daily basis. Journalling is more than just a record of daily events.

Goal setting

Goal setting forms an important part of a student's life and having well-defined goals helps value time and resources, and create achievements within a certain timeframe. Journalling can help reaffirm the goals and serve as a record that can be referred to at any time. More importantly, it helps adopt a task prioritisation approach and make decisions from a place of clarity.

Boosts mental health

Often, negative emotions and pessimistic thoughts can run on a loop in our minds. Tackling them can be challenging, especially during critical situations like exams, interviews, or college admissions. But if you pause and use a journal to put down these troubling emotions and thoughts, you are likely to be able to release them, find better clarity, and possibly come up with a solution that you wouldn't have otherwise thought of. This will reflect in the way you manage stress or anxiety.

This simple practice of putting down words into a page can help in more ways than one, especially for those dealing with mental health conditions and striving to attain a positive mindset. Journalling involves your cognitive skills like critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical reasoning. This leaves the right hemisphere to wander freely and propels creativity and intuitiveness, making a difference in one's well-being.

Self-reflection

As Ferris Bueller said, "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."

This is particularly relevant in the case of students who struggle to slow-down or take stock of the road they have travelled. Maintaining a journal can prove to be a powerful practice to prompt self-reflection, identify one's strengths and weaknesses, improve relationships, and discover where interests and anxieties stem from. Journalling just before one goes to bed paves the way for introspection, which is an important human skill to become empathetic and an overall better person.

Communication skills

In today's digital whirlwind, students face challenges in effectively expressing their authentic thoughts and ideas. The art of communication and the ability to articulate one's thought process seems to be at risk. Journalling provides a safe space to hone these skills and experiment with language, practise grammar, and identify one's unique voice. If practised regularly, journalling can help express one's thoughts and ideas and become a more proficient communicator, a skill that is invaluable in both academic and professional settings.

The magic of pen and paper holds immense benefits for students. Besides unleashing one's creativity and allowing for meaningful reflection, it provides a therapeutic outlet for stress. So, grab that journal and start writing; you may unearth a world of personal transformation and self-discovery that you never knew existed!

The writer is the Chief Learner and Director of Delhi Public School, Varanasi, Nashik, Lava Nagpur, and Hinjawadi.

PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY
Established under Section 2(f) of UGC Act, 1956 I Presidency University Act, 2013 of the Karnataka Act No. 41 of 2013
Bengaluru
ENTERPRISE 4.0 FUTURE-READY CURRICULA
APPROVED BY AICTE NEW DELHI

YOUR LIFE... YOUR CHOICE!

With **Eight** Advanced Schools offering over **Forty Eight** Programs Coupled with **Forty Three** Student Clubs that let you explore anything from Trekking to Photography...

You have the perfect platform to discover your own definition of Excellence.

TRANSFORM YOUR FUTURE WITH AN MBA

- MBA
Specialisation: Finance / Marketing / Human Resource Management / Operations & Supply Chain Management/ Business Analytics/ Digital Transformation [Dual Major]
- **MBA** (Digital Marketing)
- **MBA** (Banking & Finance Management)
- **MBA** (Marketing and Finance)
- **MBA** (Business Analytics)

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT
Master of Business Administration (MBA)

LEVEL UP YOUR TECH SKILLS WITH AN MCA

SCHOOL OF INFORMATION SC.
Master of Computer Application (MCA)

ELEVATE YOUR CAREER WITH AN M.TECH

- **M.Tech** (Data Science)
- **M.Tech** (Artificial Intelligence)
- **M.Tech** (Embedded System & VLSI)
- **M.Tech** (Building & Construction Tech.)
- **M.Tech** (Product Design & Development)

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
Master of Technology (M.Tech)

250+ STUDENTS HAVE GONE ABROAD FOR HIGHER STUDIES THROUGH INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES - COLLABORATION
SPAIN | UK | FRANCE | ITALY | USA | USA | FRANCE | LATVIA | UK | FRANCE
USA | MALAYSIA | UK | USA | USA | USA | USA | BELGIUM | RUSSIA | AND MANY MORE...

CET/DCET CODE: E237 | COMEDK CODE: 173 | PGCET CODE : MBA – B349 | M.TECH – T983

8 Advanced Schools | 48 Specialized Programs | 97% Placement Record | 500+ Corporate Partners | 103+ International University Partners | 2200+ Students Got Placed in 2022-23

Hostel Facility Available | presidencyuniversity.in | admission@presidencyuniversity.in

₹15 CRORE
ADMISSIONS 2023-24 +91-90240-60000
Presidency University, Itgalpur, Rajanakunte, Yelahanka, Bengaluru 560064
INTEREST FREE EDU. LOAN FACILITY

INBRIEF

Ashok meets Deve Gowda

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok paid a courtesy visit to former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda on Sunday. While he was accompanied by former Deputy Chief Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan, former Minister and Janata Dal (Secular) leader D.C. Thammanna was also present. This was the first meeting of Mr. Ashok with Mr. Gowda after he was appointed Leader of the Opposition in November. Sources close to Mr. Ashok said that it was a courtesy visit.

CM, Dy. CM attend launch of Nyay yatra in Manipur

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar took part in the launch of Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in Manipur on Sunday. Several senior leaders and Ministers, including Home Minister G. Parameshwara and Energy Minister K.J. George, also attended the launch of the yatra. Minister Bhyrati Basavaraj and CM's adviser Govindaraj were also part of the delegation that travelled from Karnataka.

'Cong. does not have moral right to launch Nyay yatra'

Ridiculing the Congress for launching Nyay yatra, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok on Sunday questioned the moral right of the Congress to hold such a yatra by recalling that it had enforced Emergency earlier.

"The Congress had suppressed the rights and voice of people including media through Emergency earlier. What moral right does Congress have to launch Nyay yatra now. What kind of justice it can provide to people?," Mr. Ashok wondered while interacting with mediapersons in Bengaluru.

TB: State's public notifications dropped by nearly 4% last year compared to 2022

However, pvt. notifications went up by 14%; India registers highest notifications in 2023, achieving 92% of annual target

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Sustaining the trend of tuberculosis (TB) notifications made in 2022, Karnataka has registered 81,331 TB notifications in 2023, achieving 81% of its annual target.

While this signifies the State's improved case detection measures, what is a matter of concern is that public notifications have gone down from 60,236 in 2022 to 58,125 in 2023, a drop by nearly 4%. However, private notifications have gone up by 14% in 2023 compared to 2022.

According to data from Nikshay portal, under the National TB Elimination Programme, India registered the highest notifications in 2023 (25,30,055), achieving 92% of the annual target. Among the larger States, Uttar Pradesh exceeded its target of 5.5 lakh recording 6.27 lakh TB notifications in 2023. Uttar Pradesh is followed by Rajasthan and Maharashtra that achieved 91% of their target and New Delhi with 90% achievement last year, data revealed.

Private notifications

While over half of all tuberculosis patients seek care in the private sector, case notifications from the private sector have always been way behind the targets set by the government. While private doctors are reluctant to notify cases, laxity on part of chemists in monitoring the sale of anti-TB drugs that are covered under Schedule H1 of Drugs and Cosmetics Act has also hit the State's fight against the infectious disease.

In 2023, Karnataka recorded a 14% rise in private notifications - up from 20,385 in 2022 (when the total notifications were 80,621) to 23,306 in 2023.

In 2021, there were 21.45 lakh new tuberculosis case notifications in India of which only 6.93 lakh were from the private sector. Karnataka reported 72,636 case notifications that year of which 19,652 were from the private sector. Earlier, annual targets were fixed based on population. From 2022 onwards the targets were revised on the basis of prevalence,

State Joint Director (TB) Shivayogappa U. said a comprehensive district wise analysis will be done to ascertain the reason for drop in public notifications. Based on the analysis, targeted interventions can be taken up to improve case detection, he said.

TB has been a notifiable disease in the country since May 2012. Despite awareness regarding mandatory TB notification, a significant number of private practitioners do not report cases and this has led to cases being missed out of government data. Missing cases who are lost to follow up are one of the prime reasons for quick spread of the infection.

After incentivising private notifications, the Union Health Ministry criminalised non-reporting of tuberculosis in early 2018 and as per the government notification, doctors, hospital authorities, chemists and druggists could face a jail term for not notifying TB cases.

Stigma attached

Several practitioners find reporting a hassle as many patients do not want to reveal the infection mainly because of stigma. Among other factors is migration. Many patients also give up treatment because of side effects or as soon as they feel better. This can increase the risk of developing drug-resistant TB which is more difficult and expensive to treat.

State's year-wise TB notifications

Total notifications	
2023	81,354 (81%)
2022	80,621 (81%)
2021	72,692 (54%)
2020	65,970 (49%)
2019	91,997 (71%)
Public notifications	
2023	58,128 (83%)
2022	60,236 (93%)
2021	53,612 (67%)
2020	50,045 (59%)
2019	74,259 (99%)
Private notifications	
2023	23,226 (77%)
2022	20,385 (58%)
2021	19,080 (35%)
2020	15,925 (32%)
2019	17,738 (32%)

(Percentage in bracket indicates achievement of annual target)

(Source: Nikshay portal)

Two more held in Haveri gang-rape case; BJP urges govt. to set up SIT

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Continuing investigation into the case of moral policing and gang rape at Nalkar Cross in Hangal, the Haveri district police have arrested two more men.

Superintendent of Police of Haveri Anshu Kumar told presspersons on Sunday that the police have arrested 19-year-old Mohammed Hussein Walikar and 23-year-old Imra Basheer Jakkinakatte. One of the two was arrested in Bankapur and the other in Davangere.

Mr. Anshu Kumar also said that as per investigation carried out so far, the accused did not seem to have links with any organisation.

Among the seven accused, the police arrested 24-year-old mechanic Aftab Maqbul Ahmed, 23-year-old merchant Madarsab Mohammed Isaq of Akki Alur in Hangal taluk and 28-year-old autorickshaw driver Abdul Khader Jaffarsab Hanchinamani on January 11.

Another accused, Mohammed Saif Abdul Sattar Savikeri from Akki Alur, who has suffered injuries in a road accident, is being treated at the District Hospital in Haveri. He is likely to be arrested after his treatment is completed.

A delegation, led by BJP State women's wing office-bearers, including Malavika Avinash, addressing presspersons in Haveri on Sunday. SANJAY RITTI

Meanwhile, in a statement issued on Sunday, Minister for Textile, Sugarcane Development, Sugar and Agriculture Marketing and district in-charge Shivanand Patil has strongly condemned the crime and said that none will be spared. The Minister has said that if the owner of the lodge had reported the incident on the same day, all the accused could have been arrested immediately and there would have been no chance of them escaping.

Panel chief visits

On Sunday, chairman of the Karnataka State Minorities Commission Abdul Azeem visited Haveri district.

Addressing presspersons, Mr. Azeem said that specific instructions have already been given to the police regarding investigation of the case.

The State police have been asked to set up a SIT-like team headed by the Superintendent of Police and expedite investigation, he said.

He said that the officials concerned have also been directed to take steps to prevent recurrence of such heinous crimes and that those involved in such heinous crimes are got life imprisonment or capital punishment.

Mr. Azeem said that he has spoken to the victim via videoconference and he will take up the issue of providing employment and shelter to her with the State government.

Set up SIT: BJP

In a related development, office-bearers of the BJP State women's wing led by its president Manjula and vice-president Malavika Avinash visited Haveri.

Expressing dismay over the government not forming a Special Investigation Team (SIT) by now to conduct thorough investigation in the case, they demanded the immediate setting up of the SIT.

'Victim shifted'

Addressing presspersons, they said that in order to prevent the BJP delegation from meeting the victim, the police deliberately shifted the victim to Sirsi on the pretext of investigation.

They said that the lone woman Minister in the State Cabinet Lakshmi Hebbalkar has gone missing after the registration of FIR on gang rape.

They said that women are no longer safe under the Congress rule in the State, as rape, extortion and violence against women have increased.

In another related development, Byadgi MLA Basavaraj Shivannavar on Saturday night visited the Santvana Kendra in Haveri where the victim was sheltered, consoled her and gave her a cheque for ₹50,000.

He told presspersons that it was a painful development and they have conveyed to the victim that they will be with her in providing justice to her.

Pension should not be denied for the old: HDK

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Urging the State Government not to delay pension to the needy, former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Sunday said that a senior citizen crawling for five km to seek pension has shaken the conscience of the civil society.

Expressing shock and sadness over the incident, he said that the government should not ignore such helpless people. While the State government has been claiming to have improved the livelihood of people in the State through guarantee schemes, the Davangere incident is an example of the way livelihood is derailing in the State, he said. "The incident has made us hang our heads in shame and points to the inefficiency of the government."

His statement on social media platform X came after reports appeared in the media of an elderly woman, belonging to Kunibelakere village in Harihar taluk of Davangere district, crawling for five km to seek old age pension .

Questioning the government over the incident, he asked: "It is a different matter to provide ₹2,000 per month to women. But what will happen to many such old women? It is the duty of those in the administration to help people who are in distress. Does the government not have empathy on such people? The government should immediately come to the rescue of the woman."

BJP leaders clean temples

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP leaders in Karnataka took up the task of cleaning premises of various temples in different places of the State on Sunday in response to the call given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to clean premises of temples ahead of the inauguration of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya.

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra took part in cleaning of Huchhurayaswamy temple in Shikaripur while former Deputy Chief Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan and State general secretaries P. Rajeev and Preetham Gowda participated in cleaning of Kodandarama Temple in Bengaluru. Similarly, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok took part in the cleaning of Ganesha temple in Bengaluru.

From Page One

Sector-based booster kits for start-ups soon

"The last booster kit that was made was during my previous tenure. The successive governments did not bother about that. Now, I'm talking to start-ups, engage with them very often and trying to understand what they want specifically," the Minister said.

Working with VCs

Mr. Kharge also noted that in the context of the ongoing funding winter, the government, for the first time, has been working with the Venture Capitalists to come up with a blueprint to understand how the former could help start-ups add more value.

The government is also coming up with a framework which would allow fewer number of start-ups to fail, he said.

"One part of it is the ELEVATE programme. Not all start-ups need money to succeed. Some can succeed with mentorship, some with market access, some by getting their first client. The government wants to facilitate all these. We have introduced the preferential market access for start-ups where government can be the first customer for start-ups," Mr. Kharge noted, adding that he is also engaging with banks to understand where government intervention is required.

The ELEVATE call, which recently closed, got close to 900 applications in less than a month. ELEVATE Unnati for start-ups with founders from SC/ST communities has received 83 applications, said Mr. Kharge.

He noted that the State is also keen to work with start-ups to solve problems related to urban infrastructure and mobility and an urban solutions summit is being planned by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

The Minister came down heavily on the central government for the high angel tax and questioned if the Centre is serious about Start-up India.

Hegde's remarks: Kumta police file *suo motu* case

"I am not saying that Mr. Hegde was right. We have to respect everyone. When such mistakes happen, it has to be set right. In politics, use of such language is common. However, if a police complaint needs to be registered for that, several Congress leaders may also have to be booked on similar grounds." Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok said in Bengaluru that it is wrong to personally abuse anyone. "We cannot agree with it (abuse)."

CORRIDORS OF POWER

MLA's dilemma: Allama or Azad?

Shivamogga MLA S.N. Channabasappa (*in picture*) of the BJP, who vehemently urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to name the Freedom Park in Shivamogga city after freedom fighter Chandra Shekhar Azad in a public programme on Friday, remained silent the next day when his party colleague and Lok Sabha member B.Y. Raghavendra endorsed the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's suggestion of naming it after Allama Prabhu.

Following a request from Minister for School Education Madhu Bangarappa, who is also the Minister in-charge of Shivamogga, during the launch of the Yuva Nidhi scheme on January 12, Mr. Siddaramaiah said it would be proper to name the park after Allama Prabhu, a mystic poet of the 12th century believed to be a native of Balligavi in Shikaripur taluk. The BJP MLA did oppose the suggestion in his speech on the occasion, passionately arguing that the previous BJP government had already decided to name the place after freedom fighter Chandra Shekhar Azad, and the present government should not change it.

A day later, Mr. Raghavendra, in a press conference, made it clear that the Chief Minister's choice of Allama Prabhu for the park was appropriate.

"Earlier, in 2019, at a religious event, Siddeshwara Swamy of Vijayapura suggested naming the Freedom Park after Allama Prabhu. Former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa was also present on the occasion," he said. "We will name some other place after Azad in the coming days," he said. Channabasappa, who was sitting next to the MP in the press conference, looked embarrassed but chose not to react.

Media's obsession irks Santosh Lad

Labour Minister Santosh Lad (*in picture*) was annoyed recently when the only question television channel reporters would ask him, at every possible occasion, was about the arrest of Srikanth Pujari, a "Ram Bhakt" as claimed by BJP leaders and a man in conflict with law arrested as per procedure as the police saw him.

The usually soft spoken Minister lost his cool on one instance and asked, "Is he a Nobel prize winner? Why are you people so obsessed with him?" He also sought to know how the person was so important for BJP now and why they had forgotten about him for the last three decades. Pujari was booked in 1992 in connection with a riot case after the Babri Masjid demolition.

The Minister, who also took serious exception to Union Minister Pralhad Joshi's remark on the State being "run like ISIS and Taliban state", had a question for the BJP leaders.

"If Karnataka has indeed become an ISIS state, why then are the BJP leaders still living here?" he sought to know. Saying that being a Union Minister Mr. Joshi should speak in a more responsible manner, he also had a word of advice for the mediapersons. "It is also for you to cut them short when anyone makes such irresponsible and illogical statements," he said. Not much hope of that happening, though.

Sathish G.T.
Girish Pattanashetti

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

DOB 15-08-1929 DOD 10-01-2024

Shri. T.K. Srinivasan, B.A Dip in Drg
Retired Drawing Master of Gurukulam School - Amaravathiputhur, Cordite Factory Hr.Sec.School, Aruvankadu.
Deeply mourned by sons and others.
S.Venkatakrishnan (Mob: 9445860083)

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

Dr.Mrs.Shantha Pattabhiraman
Retd. Addl. Principal & Administrator, Professor & Head of Dept. Zoology, Ethiraj College, Chennai
Your charm and smile Evergreen
You always Live in our Hearts
Remembered with Tears
D.Pattabhiraman,
Dr. D.P. Suresh, D.P. Venkatesh
Family Members

Pest is best: Bengaluru start-up's sustainable, insect-rich recipe for animal feed

Loopworm, an agri-biotechnology start-up based out of Bengaluru, uses insects to make sustainable protein-rich alternative ingredients for animal feed

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Loopworm's factory runs currently at 20% capacity and produces 120 tonnes of protein concentrate a month. They are also doing trials with shelter homes for dogs and cats.

The global demand for protein has only been increasing over the years - not just for human consumption but also for livestock, poultry and fish feed, pet food, cosmetic ingredients and more.

The flip side of this has been the extreme exploitation of the marine ecosystem for fish and other marine organisms that are rich protein sources.

But what if the demand for protein-rich ingredients could be met by something else more sustainably?

Insects, icky as they may sound to a few, are rich sources of protein and abundantly available.

Loopworm, an agri-biotechnology start-up based out of Bengaluru, uses these qualities of insects to make sustainable alternative ingredients for animal feed.

Abhi Gawri and Ankit Alok Bagaria, both graduates of IIT-Roorkee, met in 2017. A conversation about the potential of making value-added products out of organic rejects and a UN report that stated insects as the future of food and feed sowed in them the idea of Loopworm.

"Insects are nature's scavengers. They eat crop biomass and organic waste. It helps nature. And ultimately, they are a treasure trove of nutrition. They are like nature's bioreactor and concentrator. And they convert waste into valuable products," points out Bagaria, cofounder at Loopworm.

Co-founders Abhi Gawri (left) and Ankit Alok Bagaria.
SPECIAL ARRAGEMENT

"What we are trying to do is the conversion of organic rejects industries with the help of insects and converting those insects into sustainable feed ingredients for animals," he says.

Humble beginnings

"We started in a small flat in Delhi," recollects Mr. Bagaria.

"We purposely rented a flat on the fourth floor where the building didn't have any elevator so that the owner would never come. In one of the rooms, we were staying; In the other room were the insects. And the kitchen was the food waste management unit," he laughs.

They got a few eggs of black soldier flies, one of the fastest converters of food waste. Realising that climate conditions play a major role in rearing insects, they moved to Bengaluru and rented out an 800 sqft facility on the outskirts of the city where they first reared insects and then bred them.

After a brief pause imposed by COVID-19, the team became functional again in September 2020 and moved to a bigger 2000 sqft facility which used to be a buffalo farm before it.

Silky surprise

In 2022, the founders were on their way to Mysuru from Bengaluru for a meeting. Midway near Ramanagara, a strong stench, similar to that of a dead animal, caught their attention.

"As we are curious about anything that's organic waste we took a detour. We came across silk reeling factories where heaps and heaps of silkworm pupae were getting wasted," recollects Mr. Bagaria. The cocoon of the silkworm is used to make silk, and the pupae are usually discarded.

The Loopworm team.

A reject in the silk industry, the humble pupae, seemed a treasure to the eyes of the Loopworm team. They decided to rear both Black soldier fly and silkworm larvae and set up a bigger factory with a capacity to produce 500 tonnes of insect protein concentrate a month.

Helping the ocean

"One of the things that we are replacing with our insect protein is fish meal," says Mr. Bagaria.

Fish meal is a protein concentrate that is derived from wild marine pelagic fish and is a widely used ingredient in fish feed, poultry feed and pet food.

"In India it is extracted from Indian oil sardines and mackerels. Trawlers sent out into the Arabian sea catches loads of fish, often to a point where the fish stock is not regenerating naturally. Seas across the world are overfished because of the demand for fish meal and fish oil, for animal and human nutrition respectively," Mr. Bagaria explains, adding that Loopworm is trying to partially replace fish meal.

"'Partially' because we are still not at those volumes. Animal agriculture requires a huge volume of ingredients. We are still small for the industry, but it's a booming industry," he says.

According to Mr. Bagaria, one tonne of insect protein can save five tonnes of wild marine fish.

Loopworm's factory runs currently at 20% capacity and produces 120 tonnes of protein concentrate a month. The majority of the products go to aquaculture and poultry feed manufacturers. The company is also doing trials with shelter homes for dogs and cats.

"We are trying to create a sustainable circular food system with this process that would help to drive food security and avert greenhouse gas emissions," Mr. Bagaria adds.

Larger prospects

Insects being the natural food of fish and birds, the fish, poultry and livestock feed market was a low-hanging fruit for the Loopworm products. However, the team believes the potential of insect concentrate is much more.

"Sustainable alternative ingredients could be used for animal feed, plants, cosmetics, neutraceuticals, food, medicine, and a lot of things. We want to navigate this journey step by step where we go from markets like animal feed and plant nutrition to the more regulated ones such as topical applications, food and medicine eventually. We want to harness the fullest potential of insects and convert them into products where we can positively impact animal health, plant nutrition, and human health and well-being," says Mr. Bagaria.

Funding

The company, which has been initially operating with angel money and government grants, later raised funds from private investors such as Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation along with Tata Trust - both operated through Social Alpha. In September 2022, they secured an investment of ₹25.8 Crores from investors including Omnivore, Waterbridge, Titan Capital, Climate9ers, and angels such as Nadir Godrej, Sanjiv Rangrass, and founders of Zetwerk.

Abhilash Sethi, investment director at Omnivore, notes that for the increasing protein demand, aquaculture is the most sustainable solution due to its low feed conversion ratio; however, to feed the fish in those aquaculture ponds it's important to have an efficient and sustainable supply chain, which is where Loopworm comes in.

According to him, insect farming and processing is an upcoming industry in Europe currently, but Indian startups like Loopworm may have a huge advantage in terms of cost.

"These insects are typically tropical and in Europe they use climate-controlled setups to grow them which makes the whole process very expensive. They have to compete with the wild catch suppliers to supply to the feed manufacturers, and cannot raise the price point. For this reason, most of the European companies have shifted from the shrimp or fish industry to the pet food industry."

With the advantage of having a tropical climate, he notes, Indian companies like Loopworm can produce the products at a fraction of the cost at which their European counterparts are producing, and compete with global players eventually.

Dried insects and protein concentrate.

Fourth edition of Designuru to be held from Jan. 19

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Institute of Interior Designers Bangalore Regional Chapter (IIID BRC) will be hosting its fourth design festival in the city, Designuru 4.0 from January 19 to 25 at the Rangoli Metro Boulevard.

The week-long bi-annual design festival, hosted by IIID BRC to take design to the masses, will witness each day an array of talks, panel discussions, design installations, exhibits, movies, workshops, adaptive reuse, curated by leading Architecture Practices from the city.

Besides the deluge of design extravaganza, the week will also host live demonstrations by national award winning artisans from across Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

This includes national award winning Bidri artisans from Bidar displaying the intricate Bidri work, national award winning wood craftsmen from Thammampatti displaying their spectacular wood carvings, Tanjore painting artist displaying the unmatched Tanjore arts, Athangudi artisans displaying the traditional handmade Athangudi tiles of Karaikudi. The design fest will also be hosting a Santhe for arts and crafts, said a release.

Designuru 4.0 will be inaugurated by Padma Shri awardee Bidri artist, Shah Rasheed Ahmed Quadri along with Deputy Chief Minister, D.K. Shivakumar.

Architect Gunjan Das, Chairperson of IIID BRC, said "Designuru has been conceptualised to send the message that design is not meant to be confined to the elite but open to the masses as it pertains to comfort and better quality of life that addresses increase in productivity as well as health standards through its active intervention."

"It will be a virtual treat not just for designers but also for the general public," he added.

IIID was founded in 1972 to establish good professional and trade practices and ethics amongst its members and to highlight and enhance the image of the Interior Design Profession and exchange know-how with similar organisations within the country and abroad. IIID is a member of APSDA

Nearly 38 lakh people counselled, treated for mental health issues at govt.-run clinics in four years

Over 10% of those treated and counselled at government centres reported common mental health disorders such as anxiety, depression, substance and alcohol abuse

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Over the past four years, over 38 lakh people have been treated and counselled for mental health issues at State-run mental health clinics in district hospitals and medical colleges.

According to information provided by the Health Department in the winter session of the State legislature, while 10,63,242 people with mental illness have been treated and counselled in the government centres in 2019-2020, the subsequent years saw 9,02,040, 8,65,386, and 9,40,514 people receiving treatment and counselling.

According to data, there are 71 posts sanctioned for psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, and psychiatric social workers in district hospitals in Karnataka. GETTY IMAGES

Sanctioned posts

Data revealed there are 71 posts sanctioned for psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, and psychiatric social workers in district hospitals. Of these, 19 posts are vacant. Besides, of the 244 sanctioned posts for outsourced employees, 32 are vacant.

Rajani P., State Deputy Director (Mental Health), told *The Hindu* recently that over 10% of those treated and counselled at the government centres reported common mental health disorders such as anxiety, depression, substance and alcohol abuse apart from obsessive compulsive disorders (OCDs).

"The number of mental health consultations are increasing. We are also seeing many suicide attempt cases and priority is given to counsel/treat them and stop them from making repeat attempts," she said.

Stating that mental health facilities exist in all district hospitals and medical college hospitals in the State, Dr. Rajani said the department's Manochaitanya and Manasadhara programmes to provide free of cost treatment, counselling and medicines to people suffering from mental health disorders and their rehabilitation are running successfully.

Karnataka, under the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP), is one of the few States to have dedicated psychiatrists as team leaders in all districts. Besides, all PHC doctors are being trained to provide the first line of treatment, she said.

Brain Health Initiative

Dr. Rajani said the Karnataka Brain Health Initiative (Ka-BHI) that is currently running in Bengaluru South, Kolar, and Chickballapur districts is being extended to all districts.

Recognising the need to improve treatment and prevent neurological disorders in the community, the Health Department in association with NIMHANS and Niti Aayog launched Ka-BHI in January last year.

"We are setting up brain health clinics in all district hospitals and recruitment has started. Seven clinics are already in place and 15 are under progress."

"In the next three weeks, the process of establishing brain health clinics in all districts will be completed," she added.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 15, 1974

Youth Centre Construction Hit For Want of Funds

Bangalore, Jan. 12. The Karnataka Government would be taking steps to push through the Rs. 27 lakh project for constructing a Youth Centre in Bangalore. Mr. Joginder Singh, Director of Youth Services told newsmen here today.

The youth centre for which the Prime Minister laid the foundation two years ago has not made any progress due to the paucity of funds.

Mr. Singh said that the State Government had obtained plans and designs from architects in Bombay. The centre would have facilities for various hobbies and indoor games and would also have a well-equipped library. Necessary budget allotment would be made for taking up the construction of the Centre in the next year's budget, he added.

Road Traffic Survey

Bangalore, Jan. 12: Every rupee spent on road development will be able to carry goods worth Rs. 32 a year. This is in addition to services, a road randers as a means of communication.

This is one of the findings of the road traffic and transport survey in Karnataka conducted by the Public Works Department in January 1971. Such a survey was being conducted once in five years and this was the third such survey in the State. Data regarding the movement of goods on roads and their value also had been collected under a broad classified group of goods.
The survey showed that the traffic intensity and volume during 1970-71 was comparatively more compared to previous years.

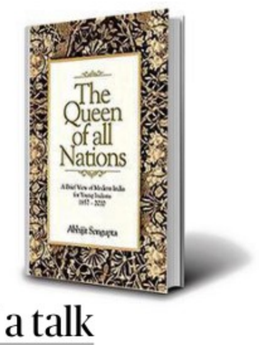
CITYBEATS

Vegan delights

WEEKENDS ONLY
Justbe by Nidhi Nahata introduces Veganuary Weekend Specials. The specialities include a Shanghai spiced sizzler that comes with noodles, fried rice, bell peppers, sweet corn, green peas, garlic, and an array of grilled vegetables.
Call 95138 04561 for bookings.

Mind matters

JANUARY 16
Attend 'Year Diary' a mental health workshop by Yashi Sonthalia and Aanchal Munoth.
It will include activities, reflective space aimed to make you feel connected and grounded.
The aim is also to build conversations.
At Atta Galatta, Indiranagar, 5.30pm.
Call 8885787022 for tickets



Book 'n' a talk

JANUARY 19
The iBrowse Book Club of the Catholic Club will invites book readers to a discussion with author Abhijit Sengupta. The author will talk about his latest book – *The Queen of all Nations* – which is a brief view of modern India from 1857 to 2020.
The event is open to all.
At 7pm in the Ballroom, Catholic Club

Neelesh Misra: A detective of small things

Writer, story-teller and lyricist, Neelesh Misra, says his experience as a journalist has helped him create a screenplay of life

Shilpa Anandraj

Neelesh Misra performed in Bengaluru on January 6 at Ambedkar Bhavan. The show featured stories he narrated set to the tune of film and non-film songs, he wrote. This was his debut as a performer in Bengaluru and he was two hours late. For a change, Bengaluru traffic was innocent.

For the uninitiated, Neelesh is a journalist, author of five books, media entrepreneur, Hindi film lyricist, and the Editor and co-founder of the rural media platform, Gaon Connection.

Neelesh started his career as a journalist, covering topics ranging from the Kargil War, to insurgency. In his lyricist avatar, Neelesh shot to fame with the song, 'Jadu hai nasha hai' from Mahesh Bhatt's *Jism*.

From sharing his experience as a lyricist and journalist to his show in Bengaluru, Neelesh speaks to Metroplus from Lucknow.

Edited excerpts

From covering insurgency to penning Bollywood songs, how has your journey been?
Without actively seeking it, my search has always been to tell the stories of people in different fields. Irrespective of which agency I was working with, I was always trying to visually write human narratives. That is what I looking for whether I was in Kashmir, Chattisgarh, on a movie set or at the Olympics in China. People have always interested me. I am a fairly good listener too. It is a rare quality that gives you humility and a better understanding of people. One of my biggest strengths is empathy, as a journalist, a storyteller or a writer. Journalism taught me patience.

Journalists, today, become the story instead of reporting it. Humility has gone out of journalism. The 'I' in journalism did not exist for the print media generation, which is where I come from. You had to earn your byline. Then television came along and journalists wanted to show their faces, wanted their names to be known and newspapers responded with picture bylines. The 'I' crept into journalism and individual branding started to happen, which in turn lead to the erosion of values in journalism.

I come from the era where journalists were like a postman or a librarian – presenting news and facts as they are. That came in handy whether I was a journalist or a writer.

Does your lived experiences come into your story telling as well?
Absolutely. Journalism teaches you to be a keen observer of even small moments. When you put in those tiny details into your story as a journalist, you are creating a screenplay of life. For instance, when I was writing a book on hijacking, in my interviews of the passengers, I asked about the food they ate, the brand of beer they were served, and even the colour of the beer can. Some of the passengers did get irritated, but when I wrote, 'when the first hijacker attacked, so-and-so was eating this holding a green coloured beer can in their hand, it became visual writing for me. That prepared me for everything that followed. I am a detective of small moments, who looks for that tiny glint in the eye, the flicker of the eyelids, all these come into my storytelling.

> I was miserable because people were waiting for over two hours. Yet, when I reached the stage, all I got was love from the audience.

Journalism is about facts, and being objective, while fiction films are driven by emotion and imagination. Did you face any challenges in the transition?
Being an agency journalist, is all about disciplined writing. When I wrote the first chapter of my first book, it was in a journalistic style despite being fiction. That is when I started exploring long form writing. Fiction did not come easy to me, but is like an addiction, as it gives you this super power of trying to imagine the what ifs, which transforms the author into a demigod. Working as a journalist and writing fictions, was like living a double life. Whether I was covering insurgency, floods, war or earthquakes, I would also be scribbling a love song for a Hindi film. If I was driving on the highways of Chattisgarh for a news story, I would also be on call with a composer discussing a song.

You wrote the song, 'Maine Dile Se Kaha' for Irrfan Khan's *Rog* while in a traffic jam in Delhi. How did creativity happen amidst the chaos?
My office was in Central Delhi and I lived in Noida. While driving home, I was stuck in traffic. That is when I got a call from the composer, MM Keeravani, and we discussed the song.

By the time I reached Pragati Maidan I had the *mukhda* of the song. I pulled over and made notes on my dictaphone. I hit the road again, pulling over when I got the next line. By the time I reached home, the song was complete.

I need to credit Keeravani who I also worked with on 'Jadu hai nasha hai'. He is an epitome of humility, grace and professorialism. He is intense and registers even the slightest sound in the background.

How did you come to be part of the Band Called Nine?
This was a con job by me (laughing sheepishly). I am not a trained singer. We were approached by a music label and they wanted to do an album with me. By this time, many of my film songs had been released. Non-film music was dead because of piracy. We were asked to form a band, I sat with Shilpa Rao, who got the band together. I suggested it be called a writer-led band because I did not want to be a non-playing captain. They wanted to know what the writer would do on stage and impulsively I made up a line: the writer will tell a story. That's how my story telling journey started.

How was your performance in Bengaluru?
It was an eventful day. I was two hours late for the concert as my flight was delayed. The concert was supposed to start at 6pm, but I landed in Bengaluru only at 7pm. I was miserable because people were waiting for over two hours. Yet, when I reached the stage, all I got was love from the audience. That is priceless and cannot be taken for granted. So, as a sign of my gratitude and respect for the love I received from my audience, I announced that all the tickets will be refunded. They are being done as we speak. The relationship with my audiences is unique as the story telling makes them connect to me and open up to me in unimaginable ways. After the show, people wait to meet me and share their personal experiences . It is a privilege when people connect with you.

Sankranti on your plate

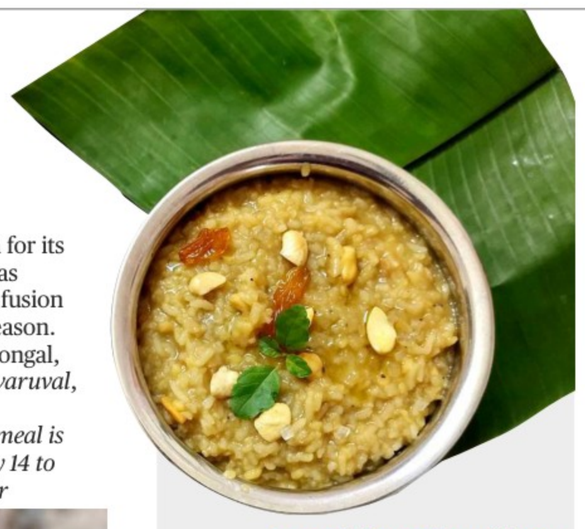
Nidhi Adlakha

From the North
Specialising in cuisine from North Karnataka, Sai Sogadu is offering a special festive meal comprising 27 dishes. The menu will feature curries based on the day's produce availability, and these include *mulangi kosambari*, carrot *kosambari, shenga* chutney, *junakad vade, avrekal palya, hitikai yennegai, jolad nucchu, ragi ambli*, a range of *rotis* such as *sajji roti, gonjal rotti, jolad rotti,*

among others.
Priced at ₹320 the meal is available from January 12 to 15 for lunch and dinner.

Hello harvest Enjoy a range of season specials this Sankranti. GETTY IMAGES / ISTOCKPHOTO AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Meaty combo
Dishkeyaun, known for its modern Indian fare, has launched an exclusive fusion menu for the festive season. The meal comprises pongal, chicken curry, prawn *varuval*, and *lacha* salad.
Priced at ₹699, the meal is available from January 14 to 18 for lunch and dinner



A meal from the village
Bringing authentic village fare for the season is Hallimane with its Sankranti Habbadoota. Their special meal comprises dishes such as *ellu bellada burfi, karjura payasa, kadalebele kosambari,* grapes *gojju*, vegetable bath, *togaribele holige*, beans *palya, avarekalu gasi*, sweet potato *bonda, thambuli*, Kashi *halwa*, among others.
Priced at ₹350 for adults and ₹200 for children, it is available for lunch and dinner on January 15

Healthy harvest delights
Reimagined at Justbe is presenting a sumptuous 20-dish spread on banana leaves for that authentic South Indian experience. Each dish curated by Justbe founder Nidhi Nahata is paired with desserts too.
Priced at ₹771.75 per person (inclusive of taxes), only for lunch on January 15 from 1pm-2pm. Call or Whatsapp 88841 63061 for details

A winter special
To commemorate the onset of the harvest season, Rasotsav has launched a Makarotsav Thali that features an assortment of winter delicacies from across India. Savour dishes such as chironji makhane ki kheer, til ladoo, beans tillwala, sesame vegetable gold coin, sarson ka saag, corn palak tikki, chakkara pongal, pindi chana, tillwale chawal, to name a few.
Priced at ₹625 the meal is available between January 13 and 15

Celebrating women in music

In a musical tribute to the often-overlooked contributions of women in classical music, Maria Forsström, an acclaimed mezzo-soprano, and Bengt Forsberg, a renowned pianist, have curated a concert program that transcends time and borders.

The concert will feature compositions representing women and their perspectives in the realm of classical music.

The program pays homage to historical female composers like Clara Schumann, Fanny Mendelssohn Hänsel, Cécile Chaminade, and Rebecca Clarke.

It also acknowledges the evolving landscape with contemporary women composers like Kaija Saariaho and Unsuk Chin, emphasizing the importance of embracing diverse voices in the world of classical music.

Forsström, known for her versatile repertoire and intelligent musicianship, takes center-stage. Having transitioned from studying church music, piano, and conducting to becoming a celebrated vocalist, Forsström's journey epitomises the evolving role of women in the classical music scene.

Forsberg, equally esteemed for his work as a chamber musician, has a repertoire that spans across various genres, showcasing his commitment to exploring lesser-known composers and compositions.

His collaboration with mezzo-soprano Anne Sofie von Otter has garnered international acclaim, earning them a Grammy Award for Best Classical Solo Vocal Album.

The concert will feature compositions representing women in the realm of classical music

Melody maker Clara Schumann. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The concert promises to be an experience that blends rich historical legacy of female composers with the contemporary contributions of artists like Forsström and Forsberg.

At Bangalore International Centre on January 15, 7 pm to 8:30 pm. Free entry on a first come first serve basis on RSVP and availability. For RSVP and more information, visit bangaloreinternationalcentre.org.

Late soldier's wife fights an arduous battle for pension

D. Suresh Kumar
CHENNAI

Some months before D. Ramu, an Army Naik, was to be discharged from service on medical grounds in 2002, he was required to submit a joint photograph with his wife Anuradha, whom he had married in 1991. Anuradha was his authorised "next of kin" as per records of the Corps of Army Air Defence (AAD). Post-discharge, he received pension till his death in April 2010.

Thereafter, the Assistant Director, Zilla Sainik Welfare Office, Mahabubnagar in Telangana, received an application from one D. Padma stating she was Ramu's widow and sought grant of family pension. The officer in-charge (Records), AAD Records, however, informed Ms. Padma that her name did not tally with the details of spouse mentioned in Ramu's service documents.

It emerged that Ramu had married Ms. Padma in June 2003, years after Anuradha allegedly deserted him. He had not divorced Anuradha. Ms. Padma had begotten three children from Ramu.

Problem worsened for second wife with the deceased Army Naik's sister 'posing' as his widow

Thereafter in September 2010, the Army authorities received another petition seeking disbursal of Ramu's death benefits to Anuradha and Ms. Padma with a 25% share for the first wife and the remaining for the second wife.

The Army authorities were perplexed when Ms. Padma not only contested this claim of Ramu having been previously married to Anuradha but also said the application for pension received in Anuradha's name was actually sent by Ramu's sister Suseela.

Facts that emerged during an investigation startled the authorities. The woman, who had applied for pension in Anuradha's name, admitted that she was Ramu's sister. It so happened that Ramu, at the time of his discharge, was unable to legally substitute Ms. Padma as his spouse since he had not divorced Anuradha.

Therefore, on someone's advice, he had asked Suseela to pose for a joint photograph with him and submitted it to the AAD, passing it off as his wife Anuradha. He did not foresee the complications after his lifetime. After Suseela's lie stood exposed, Ms. Padma sought to be declared as Ramu's "next of kin" and be granted the pension.

A lengthy and unsuccessful battle ensued at different forums, including the Andhra Pradesh High Court. Eventually, Ms. Padma approached the Armed Forces Tribunal, Regional Bench, Chennai Circuit Bench at Hyderabad.

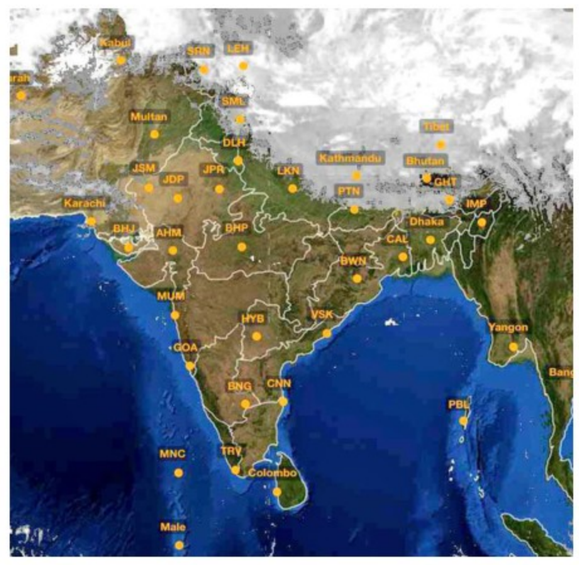
The tribunal's members last month delivered the orders. While holding that since Ramu had married Ms. Padma during the lifetime of his first wife, the marriage was void. They took note of other aspects to recognise her claim for pension.

The tribunal held that the continuous cohabitation of Ms. Padma and Ramu could be presumed to be a "lawful marriage".

It also said the pension arrears will be restricted to three years prior to the date of filing of the original application (April 3, 2023). The arrears shall be paid within four months of the receipt of the order.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Dense to very dense fog very likely in many parts over Punjab and Haryana-Chandigarh-Delhi, Uttar Pradesh; in isolated places over Jammu Division, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	19.0	12.0	Kozhikode	—	34.0	25.0
Ahmedabad	—	30.0	10.0	Kurnool	—	34.0	21.0
Aizawl	—	19.0	8.0	Lucknow	—	15.0	7.0
Allahabad	—	20.0	7.0	Madurai	—	32.0	22.0
Bengaluru	—	29.0	17.0	Mangaluru	—	34.0	22.0
Bhopal	—	28.0	14.0	Mumbai	—	34.0	20.0
Bhubaneswar	—	27.0	16.0	Mysuru	—	29.0	16.0
Chandigarh	—	15.0	3.0	New Delhi	—	20.0	4.0
Chennai	—	31.0	22.0	Patna	—	33.0	19.0
Coimbatore	—	31.0	21.0	Port Blair	—	30.0	22.0
Dehradun	—	22.0	6.0	Puducherry	—	31.0	23.0
Gangtok	—	16.0	8.0	Pune	—	33.0	19.0
Goa	—	34.0	23.0	Raipur	—	31.0	14.0
Guwahati	—	21.0	12.0	Ranchi	—	24.0	8.0
Hubballi	—	33.0	19.0	Shillong	—	16.0	7.0
Hyderabad	—	32.0	19.0	Shimla	—	20.0	8.0
Imphal	—	24.0	5.0	Srinagar	—	13.0	-4.0
Jaipur	—	24.0	8.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.0	23.0
Kochi	—	31.0	24.0	Tiruchi	—	31.0	22.0
Kohima	—	16.0	5.0	Vijayawada	—	31.0	22.0
Kolkata	—	22.0	13.0	Visakhapatnam	—	28.0	23.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	...8	..12	.15	...172	...135	
Bengaluru	.23	..12	.37	...194	...139	
Chennai	...3	...9	.53	...327	...214	
Delhi	...7	..85	.94	...477	...445	
Hyderabad	...8	103	.62	...219	.....—	
Kolkata	.15	..68	.30	...323	...202	
Lucknow	...5	..58	100	...340	...327	
Mumbai	.15	..85	...1	...187	...131	
Pune	..—	...2	.37	...327	.....—	
Visakhapatnam	.13	..40	.60	...316	...199	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Noida, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 456 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 33

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Sabarimala gears up for Makaravilakku; pilgrims crowd hills

The Hindu Bureau
PATHANAMTHITTA

With just hours left for the Makaravilakku festival at the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple, almost all vantage points at the hillock here have been occupied by pilgrims.

Devotees have been camping at makeshift tents erected at different locations, waiting to catch a glimpse of the celestial light, Makarajyothi. The crowd on the hillock had begun to swell from Friday evening itself. The curbs on entry of people notwithstanding, the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) expects up to two lakh people to attend the festival on Monday and has arranged 10 points in the hillock for worshipping the 'Deeparadhana' ritual to be performed at Ponnambalamedu – a remote hill in the shola forests facing the Sannidhanam.

The procession carrying the Thiruvabharanam (sacred jewellery) will reach the Sannidhanam by Monday evening. The TDB will accord a reception to the jewel boxes first at Saramkuthy and then at the Sannidhanam. The presiding deity will be adorned with the Thiruvabharanam prior to the 'Deeparadhana' ritual.

Meanwhile, the authorities have limited the virtual queue bookings for Tuesday to 50,000 while from January 17 to 20, the virtual queue bookings per day has been raised to 70,000.

CPI(M) counters nepotism charges by BJP, Congress

Govindan says Congress should stop supporting Centre's witch-hunt against Vijayan; BJP seeks to seize the high moral ground in controversy revolving around CM's family and UDF leaders

G. Anand
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) Kerala committee dismissed the allegation by the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) that the Union Corporate Affairs Ministry's probe into the company affairs of the now defunct IT consultancy firm of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's daughter T. Veena has put the government and the party in the dock.

CPI(M) State secretary M.V. Govindan said the civil inquiry into the legitimate and on-record transactions of the IT firm lost all sensational value if "you subtracted the Chief Minister from the equation". He said the Congress in Kerala had devolved into the ideological echo chamber of the BJP by seeking to lend legitimacy to the Centre's political witch-hunt against Mr. Vijayan.

CPI (M) State secretary M.V. Govindan during a march to Raj Bhavan in Thiruvananthapuram. S. MAHINSHA

The CPI(M)'s sally in defence of the government came close on the heels of the Congress and BJP's attempts to portray the monthly payments received by Ms. Veena's IT consultancy from a Kochi-based mining company during the 2017-21 period, an estimated ₹1.7 crore in monthly payments, as a classic example of profiting from proximity to power.

On Sunday, BJP State president K. Surendran sought to seize the moral high ground and upstage the Opposition United Democratic Front (UDF) in the controversy by alleging that the Congress and the Indian Union Muslim League leaders had also received huge backhanders from the mining firm in lieu of protection for its environmentally hazardous quarrying operations.

Telangana fights rise in spurious drugs; doctors sound alarm

Siddharth Kumar Singh
HYDERABAD

Enforcement agencies across Telangana have uncovered the business of spurious drugs, in recent raids conducted by the Drugs Control Administration (DCA).

Since last month, the DCA conducted searches at 10 facilities, resulting in the confiscation of nearly 1,171 kg of counterfeit medications worth ₹9.76 crore. Meanwhile, medical experts warn that the consumption of such illicit drugs poses severe threat to health.

Spurious drugs, also known as counterfeit drugs, are deceitfully manufactured medicines designed to mimic reputable products, often from well-known brands, with the intention of misleading the public and capitalising on the popularity of authentic items. These fraudulent medications may even bear the details of non-existent manufacturers, creating a facade of legitimacy for fictitious companies.

Not only do spurious drugs fail to address the intended medical conditions but they can also lead to disastrous consequences for patients over time.

Kiran Madala, Scientific Committee convener of Indian Medical Association-Telangana State, highlights the potential impact on trust in medicines, healthcare providers, and health systems. He notes the expanding market for look-alike drugs, which may appear genuine until closely examined, revealing poor standards that can harm one's health upon inspection. "The prolonged consumption of such counterfeit drugs can have serious implications for vital organs like the kidneys and liver, potentially leading to fatal outcomes due to impurities present in illicit substances," he said.

Addressing concerns around drug monitoring standards, another medical professional points out a critical loophole in the system.The preparation of a new drug involves approval from the Union government, but the process becomes vulnerable at the State-level.

Will bring back Andhra Pradesh's glory and develop Amaravati as people's capital: Naidu

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Exuding confidence that the Telugu Desam Party and Jana Sena Party (TDP and JSP) alliance would come to power in the State in the coming general elections, TDP national president N. Chandrababu Naidu said he would bring back the glory of Andhra Pradesh and develop Amaravati as the "people's capital" and transform Visakhapatnam into the State's financial capital.

Besides, the TDP-JSP government would set up a High Court Bench in Kurnool, and revive the agriculture and all other sectors "ruined" by the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) through its "flawed policies and vengeful actions".

TDP national president N. Chandrababu Naidu and JSP chief Pawan Kalyan taking part in the Bhogi and Sankranti celebrations. G.N. RAO

Addressing the public after burning copies of the "dark G.O.s" issued by the YSRCP government in the bonfire lit on the occasion of Bhogi festival at Mandadam in Guntur district along with JSP chief Pawan Kalyan on Sunday, Mr. Naidu said he had a mixed feeling of pain and hope over the manner in which Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy pushed the State backward by implementing a slew of retrograde policies, and the prospect of the TDP and JSP alliance toppling the YSRCP government in about three months.

> Amaravati would have been a model capital city but Jagan shattered that dream by coming up with his own quixotic idea of three capitals
>
> **N. CHANDRABABU NAIDU**
> TDP chief

'Future belongs to TDP'

He asserted that the future belonged to the TDP and JSP and together they would show how wealth could be created by harnessing the plentiful resources available in the State. Amaravati would have been a model capital city, but Mr. Jagan shattered that dream by coming up with his own "quixotic idea of three capitals". "Political violence, illegal cases and deceptive promises had made the people's lives miserable," he observed.

Mr. Naidu said courts were "helpless" as Mr. Jagan ruled like a "dictator" and the only way to protect the people from his clutches was to cast his party out of power. Neither he nor Mr. Pawan were craving to become the Chief Minister, he said, adding 87-day countdown has begun for the YSRCP.

Ex-Kerala Minister dead; CM, Congress leader pay tributes

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Congress leader and former Food and Civil Supplies Minister T.H. Musthafa, 83, passed away at a private hospital in Kochi on Sunday from age-related ailments.

He had served as the Minister in the Kerala government led by K. Karunakaran from 1991 to 1995. Musthafa was known for his witty and long political speeches. He had represented the Kunnathunad Assembly constiutency for five terms. Besides serving as the District Congress president, he had served as a member of the KPCC.

T.H. Musthafa

The funeral was held in the evening. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan, KPCC president K. Sudhakaran and Ramesh Chennithala have condoled his death.

Ban goes unheeded as rooster fights in A.P. get huge patronage during Sankranti

Rajulapudi Srinivas
VIJAYAWADA

Sankranti, the harvest festival, began with rooster fights, as usual, in many villages of Andhra Pradesh. Youth were seen thronging the arenas to enjoy the 'traditional game'. The arenas were arranged at Edupugallu, Gannavaram, Numna, Tiruvuru, Chinchinada, Pulapalli and other villages in Krishna, NTR, West Godavari, Konaseema, Eluru and other districts.

Organisers arranged huge tents, digital screens and flood lights at the arenas. Besides shops, hotels, snacks, fast food centres and other stalls were set up.

Fight club: A rooster fight event organised at Edupugallu village in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh on Sunday. G.N. RAO

The tents were packed with visitors, punters and villagers. Roosters worth lakhs of rupees were brought for the fights.

"Each 'Pandem' (fight) is bet for ₹2 lakh and above. Rooster fights, known as 'Kodi Pandalu' in local parlance, is part of the harvest festival," says a youth, Chintala Appala Raju of Chikkala village in West Godavari district.

Despite a ban on rooster fights, villagers arranged rings at many places in rural areas. NRIs and software professionals from Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and other cities were seen enjoying the bloodsport.

The fights were held on Sunday at Edupugallu, on the outskirts of Vijayawada. Heavy crowds were witnessed at the arena, and crores of rupees are expected to change hands during the festivities.

"There is no Sankranti without rooster fights. We came all the way from Hyderabad to celebrate the harvest festival. This year the festival is celebrated with fervour and tradition," says Bandi Venu, a private employee and a native of Tanuku.

Chinese manja claims life of Army driver

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

A Naik-rank officer of the Indian Army succumbed to his injuries, reportedly after his throat got slit by a Chinese manja (abrasive string used for flying kites) here in Langer House police limits on Saturday.

The victim, Kagithala Koteswar Reddy, 30, was declared 'dead on arrival' at a local hospital. According to the police, Reddy hailed from Pedda Wailter of Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. A driver in the Military Hospital here, he and his wife were residing at Bapu Nagar in Langer House.

The incident took place at around 7.25 p.m., when he was on his scooter on the Indra Reddy flyover. Pictures from the scene showed a blood-stained scooter, a kite and the manja that entangled his neck.

Within a span of 24 hours, the city witnessed three more deaths related to kite-flying.

On Saturday evening, Shiva, 13, fell from the terrace of a four-storey building in Nagole while flying kites with his friends. In Alwal, Vikas, 20, allegedly slipped and fell off a five-storey building while flying kites. On Friday evening, an 11-year-old boy was allegedly electrocuted on the terrace of his apartment in Attapur, Cyberabad.

Prohibitive gains

Rising food prices may affect already weak consumption of goods

Inflation measured by the Consumer Price Index expectedly quickened to a four-month high in December, with the measure of gains in food prices accelerating at a relatively faster pace as inflation in cereals and pulses stayed stubbornly sticky. While headline retail inflation ticked up by 14 basis points from November's level to 5.69%, price gains measured by the Consumer Food Price Index accelerated by 83 basis points from the preceding month's reading to 9.53% in December. The upsurge in food prices was largely driven by cereals – the biggest constituent of the 'food and beverages' group – that logged 9.93% inflation. Though that pace was marginally slower than the 10.3% posted in November, the key sub-group that includes the staples of rice, wheat and coarser cereals continued to register a month-on-month rate of inflation that offered little comfort to households. Disconcertingly, sequential price gains accelerated the most in the case of jowar and bajra – by 63 and 106 basis points, respectively, from November's month-on-month inflation rates. These two coarse cereals are consumed more widely in the rural hinterland, particularly by those already facing varying degrees of precarity. Price gains in pulses, a key protein source in vegetarian households, also accelerated to a 43-month high of 20.7%. With the current *rabi* season's sowing of pulses as on January 12, almost 8% lower than in the corresponding period of 2023, the outlook for their prices in the coming months is far from reassuring.

Year-on-year inflation in vegetable prices also registered a dizzying almost 10 percentage points upsurge from November's level, accelerating to a five-month high pace of 27.6%. Tomatoes and onions again led the charge, with their prices rising by over 33% and 74% from December 2022's levels, respectively. However, reflecting the seasonal volatility that vegetable prices are prone to, prices of both the kitchen staples, as well as the broader sub-group, witnessed sequential deflation. While the month-on-month deflation in overall vegetable prices was 5.3%, the prices of potatoes, onions and tomatoes contracted from November by 5.9%, 16% and 9.4%, respectively. Still, the average retail price of a majority of the 23 food items monitored on a daily basis by the Department of Consumer Affairs continues to remain higher as on January 14 than the year-earlier level, reflecting the challenge policymakers face in containing food-price inflation. With households likely to spend larger shares of their incomes on food as these costs continue to rise, there is a real risk that the knock-on impact on already weak consumption can derail the broader growth momentum in the economy. And with the spiralling crisis in West Asia infusing a new level of uncertainty over global trade and energy costs, policymakers have their task cut out.

Closer to closure

Terror networks can be dismantled only by disabling those at their top

The long arm of the law finally caught up with Savad, a fugitive in the notorious case of chopping off the palm of a college professor in Kerala's Thodupuzha, 13 years after the crime. Sleuths of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested him, the first accused, from a village in northern Kerala's Kannur where he was living under a fake identity, on January 10. The agency will rightly seek his custody in order to unearth the latent network of the banned Popular Front of India (PFI), which is believed to have planned the barbaric assault on the professor in July 2010 and arranged for Savad's life in hiding thereafter. Religious extremists targeted Professor T.J. Joseph on his way home from church for drafting a question paper with supposedly a 'blasphemous' reference to the Prophet; actually, it was an adaptation of a passage from an essay on a screenplay written by noted Malayalam film-maker P.T. Kunju Muhammad. The State was able to ensure that the incident did not spark communal tensions, but it set off a series of irreversible losses for the professor. With the Catholic church, which managed the college where he was teaching, turning its back on him, he was terminated from service, with a recall on the eve of his retirement made possible, ruefully, by the suicide of his disconsolate wife, as he recalls in his memoirs, *A Thousand Cuts* (2020).

The NIA took over the investigation in 2011. While it was able to get the conviction of 19 of the accused for various offences including those under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the two-phase trial, the fact that the key accused remained at large prevented its closure. The agency announced a bounty of ₹10 lakh for information on Savad. His arrest has shifted the focus to the conspirators who masterminded the assault and the underlings who harboured him. Given that it was the outlawed Students Islamic Movement of India that metamorphosed into the National Development Front and subsequently into the PFI, the key to averting its resurgence in another avatar lies in uprooting the entire network of its underground supporters. Prof. Joseph has, as his words suggest, overcome any ill-will or feeling of vengeance towards his assailants, but he rues that action against the foot soldiers of religious terror would not guarantee peace and harmony in society. For that to happen, their handlers should be brought to book. It is vital that the NIA stays the course and prosecutes the key accused. The terror network that plotted the heinous attack must be disabled entirely.

A Speaker's flawed move to determine the real faction

P.D.T. Achary

is former Secretary General, Lok Sabha

The Speaker of the Maharashtra Assembly, Rahul Narwekar, was required to decide whether the breakaway group of Shiv Sena Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) under the leadership of Eknath Shinde voluntarily gave up the membership of their party and later voted against the whip issued by that party, the Shiv Sena, and thereby incurred disqualification. Voluntarily giving up the membership of their original party or voting against the whip of the party are treated as defection and the Members of the legislature who do either of these things are liable to be disqualified under the anti-defection law contained in the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution. It was immaterial that Eknath Shinde later became the Chief Minister or that a majority of the Shiv Sena's legislators joined the Shinde group or that the original Shiv Sena party became a minority in the Assembly. These facts are irrelevant for the determination of the question of disqualification under the Tenth Schedule.

An attempt to prevent disqualification

The petition was filed by the original Shiv Sena party which sought the disqualification of the Shinde group. When such a petition is filed before the Speaker, he gets the jurisdiction to decide whether the respondent legislators have defected. The facts placed before the Speaker were that the rebel MLAs under the leadership of Eknath Shinde had secret meetings in a faraway State and did not attend the crucial legislative party meetings called by the president of the original Shiv Sena party, Uddhav Thackeray, without giving any reason. This rebellion by the group of MLAs loyal to Eknath Shinde culminated in the formation of an alliance with the party in Opposition and Mr. Shinde being sworn in as Chief Minister. So, Speaker Narwekar was called upon to decide whether this action of Eknath Shinde and his colleagues could be treated as voluntarily giving up the membership of the party, the Shiv Sena, and, hence, could be disqualified.

Whether a member of the legislature has voluntarily given up the membership of his party is to be determined on the basis of the facts and circumstances of each case. The Supreme Court of India has on several occasions explained the scope of this term used in paragraph 2(1)(a) of the Tenth Schedule. In *Rajendra Singh Rana vs Swami Prasad Maurya* (2007), the Court had said that when a member or a group of members of the ruling party joins hands with the Opposition party and meet the Governor along with the Members of the Opposition and try to form an alternative government, they can be said to have voluntarily given up the membership of their original party. So, when we look at the conduct of the Shinde group of MLAs in light of the Supreme Court's observation in the case above, it becomes clear that they have voluntarily given up the membership of their party. The consequence of this is disqualification.

Speaker Narwekar's nearly 1,200 page long judgment valiantly tried to avoid this consequence and save the Shinde group from disqualification. It is a deeply flawed judgment.

Originally, under the Tenth Schedule, a legislator could avoid disqualification on two grounds. First, a split in his political party occurs wherein one-third of the legislators form a faction and break with that party. Second, the legislator's party merges with another party and not less than two thirds of them agree to the merger and walkout of the original party. In both these cases the outgoing legislators could claim exemption from disqualification. But the split provision in paragraph 3 of the Tenth Schedule was omitted through the 91st Constitution Amendment in 2003 ostensibly because of the frequent abuse of this provision by ingenious legislators. Now only the merger provision in paragraph 4 remains which can protect defectors provided the conditions stipulated in paragraph 4 are met, the main condition being the merger of the defectors party with another party. It is an extremely difficult condition to fulfil, yet this condition is also being circumvented now in a number of cases.

In *Subhash Desai vs Principal Secretary, Governor of Maharashtra & Ors.* (2023), the Supreme Court observes that a split has taken place in the Shiv Sena party, and thus two factions have come into existence. But in the context of the Tenth Schedule, this observation has no relevance because the Tenth Schedule does not recognise a split now. So, a split in a party no longer exempts the legislators from disqualification.

Speaker's erroneous move

Yet, Speaker Narwekar erroneously tries to determine which faction is the real Shiv Sena. He frequently quotes what he calls the Supreme Court's direction to determine this question. It must be made clear here that the question as to which faction is the real party cannot be decided by the Speaker as the Tenth Schedule does not require him to decide this. This question is decided only by the Election Commission of India under paragraph 15 of the symbols order. The only question that is required to be decided by the Speaker in some cases as a preliminary issue is which party the legislators defected from, or in other words which is their original political party. The explanation to paragraph 2(1) clearly says that an elected member of a House shall be deemed to belong to the political party, if any, by which he was set up as a candidate for election as such member. This deeming provision clarifies this question beyond any doubt. It is not at all the function of the Speaker to determine which faction is the real party that is not germane to the anti-defection law.

In the Shiv Sena case in Maharashtra, the question as to which faction is the real party cannot be decided by the Speaker as the Tenth Schedule does not require him to decide this

Judiciary's clear enunciation of the law

The Speaker's declaration that the appointments of the Chief Whip and the legislature party leader by the Shinde group is valid runs counter to the Supreme Court's finding that the decision to recognise Mr. Shinde as leader and Bharat Gogawaleas Chief Whip is illegal (paragraph 119 of the Subhash Desai judgment). The Court has also held that the decision of the Deputy Speaker recognising Ajay Choudhary as the Chief Whip is valid. It has also made it absolutely clear that when the conduct prohibited under the Tenth Schedule is committed, there is only one political party, namely the original Shiv Sena led by Uddhav Thackeray (paragraph 157). In light of this clear enunciation of law by the Supreme Court, how could the Speaker come to a finding that the Shinde group is the real party? This decision of the Speaker is clearly without jurisdiction.

The Subhash Desai judgment makes it clear that the Shiv Sena led by Uddhav Thackeray is the original political party which alone could issue a valid whip to all the members of the Shiv Sena. It is that party whose membership the Shinde group voluntarily gave up and thus incurred disqualification under paragraph 2(1) of the Tenth Schedule. As regards the question of which faction is the real Shiv Sena, it can be decided only by the Election Commission of India. The Speaker has no jurisdiction to decide it. It may be noted that Parliament while enacting the Tenth Schedule did not consider paragraph 15 of the Symbols order as a relevant factor.

The delusion of eliminating 'the last terrorist'

Shashank Ranjan

a retired Indian Army officer (colonel) with counter-insurgency experience in the Rajouri- Poonch region as part of the Rashtriya Rifles formations, currently teaches at O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonepat, Haryana

In Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), the new year dawned in the backdrop of a terror strike in Rajouri-Poonch districts at Dera ki Gali (DKG), where four soldiers were killed in an ambush. In its aftermath, three civilians were alleged to have been killed by security forces. The Director General of Police, J&K, in his media briefing on the year's round up, touched upon the encouraging numbers of terrorists killed, and how the things in the Union Territory (UT) were looking up. At around the same time, there was a media report, giving the nuances related to the number of terrorists killed by a paramilitary force in 2023, which was lower than the previous year, and, hence, a cause of concern. The Union Home Minister too, while reviewing the security situation in the UT, exhorted the security forces to destroy the terror infrastructure. This, in all probability, implied maximising the neutralisation of terror cadres.

Debatable obsession, misplaced focus

While it cannot be denied that neutralising terrorists is one of the most crucial objectives of the security operations, it ought not become the overriding factor, especially in the present context of lower terror indices. In this backdrop, an obsession with the numbers of terrorists killed may be debatable *vis-à-vis* its effect in the mid and long term.

The past and present of insurgency in Rajouri-Poonch districts vindicate the argument related to the futility of an obsession with the number of 'kills'. Simply put, the last terrorist can seldom be killed. Insurgency was at its peak in the late 1990s and early 2000s in this region. By virtue of the toil and sacrifices of the uniformed services, the situation changed for the better and by 2011-12, the region was on the verge of being declared terror free.

It is amply clear that the state machinery was unable to consolidate and build up on the gains made. And, at present, the region appears to be going down the abyss, yet again. In hindsight, it may be inferred that one of the main attributes leading to the re-emergence of instability is the misplaced focus of the counter terrorism approach. In our undue obsession with the numbers of 'kills' as parameters of a successful counter-terror campaign, we may have been winning the battle by addressing the symptoms, but it has indeed been at the cost of the campaign.

Neutralising terrorists is a crucial objective of the security operations, but it ought not to become the overriding factor in the context of there being lower terror indices

System's reluctance to adapt

Paradoxically, combating insurgencies is challenging when terror-related incidents are on decline and the need for recognition pushes units to scout for easier ways to gain tangibles. Most often, it gets down to being a case of the 'tail wagging the dog', wherein the ends are chased with a total disregard to the means. Chasing numbers was the obvious option in the years when terror-related fatalities in J&K touched a yearly mark of 2,000-plus. This is in sharp contrast to the declining fatalities post 2007, with the figures at 134 in 2023 (South Asia Terror Portal). The situational dynamics, unfortunately, never ushered in adjustments in the modus operandi of security forces and assessment methodology of unit performance by the hierarchy. Changed dynamics warranted efforts at peace building, consolidation and conflict management. The system has been reluctant to adapt. 'Tangibles prove performance' continues to be the bottom-line, mainly due to factors such as limited tenures, primacy of short-term gains, competitive career environments, and a false sense of glory.

As in the classical teaching of counter insurgency, tactical-level operations, duly backed by psychological operations, have to be people-centric. Winning the hearts and the minds of the population has been a cliched but most overlooked dictum. A perseverance to address people's aspirations is most often sacrificed at the altar of so-called performance imperatives. It is noteworthy that although various agencies of the state involved in a conflict zone do formulate and execute people-centric policies, the cultural orientation of the same at execution levels is missing. This has often resulted in lapses such as what manifested in the unfortunate death of three civilians in DKG. Also, in several instances, we have suffered an avoidable loss of officers and jawans in an operational rush to acquire 'kills'. The bad name caused casts a sombre shadow on the hard-earned values, ethics and traditions of the security forces.

The gap with the political process

Given our democratic setup, the nation implies people. A security force of the nation must defend its people and their dignity, even at its own cost. Leadership is all about compensating any cost to the soldier, with the leader standing up to bridge the gap between the interests of people and soldiers. Ideally, there should be no contradiction between the requirements of people and soldiers, who have to be commanded accordingly. Clearly, if people's acceptance is the 'end', then an oversight on the 'means' provisioned by soldiers is indispensable. And, lastly, security forces have the task of managing the conflict and handing over a stable situation to the government machinery for due political process, with enhanced participation and stakeholding of the people. Many a time, the security forces have been successful in doing that, only to be met with unprepared and reluctant political initiatives.

In a report on January 8, this daily reported that "the people of J&K, who have not had any Assembly representation since 2018, will cease to have any electoral representation at the grassroots level as well, from January 9". Such developments do not comprise a recipe for resolution of the J&K conundrum through the whole of the government approach. And, perhaps, the objective of eliminating terrorists rather than terrorism shall continue to be the ground rule.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ayodhya mosque

The front page news report, on the Ayodhya mosque project, was a surprise given the intense media focus on the Ayodhya temple ("Ayodhya mosque to be 'better than Taj'", January 14). To make a comparison with the Taj Mahal, in terms of its final grandeur, is uncalled for. Let this mosque be simple in all respects in keeping with the simplicity propounded by Islam. Let the structure serve society irrespective of religion or faith and earn the appreciation of all. It must be used as an opportunity to make it stand as a symbol of secularism instead of division.

Mohammed Ikramulla,
Hyderabad

The project would hopefully help soothe the hurt feelings of the community. Barring religious zealots and wily politicians who will always look for ways to fish in troubled waters, the rest would view the denouement as something positive. It would not be too much to expect Ayodhya to grow as a symbol of religious amity and coexistence, heralding India's secular ethos far and wide.

Ayyasseri Raveendranath,
Aranmula, Kerala

That the Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation plans to make the Ayodhya mosque better than the Taj Mahal is welcome. If it materialises, it will surely fortify the secular credentials of India and draw thousands to visit both temple and mosque. After all, India's strength is undoubtedly secularism.

S. Ramakrishnasayee,
Chennai

The Congress's stand

The Congress has done the right thing by turning down the invitation to the inauguration of the Ram temple. As for the accusations of the party being 'anti-Hindu', the fact that even the four Shankaracharyas have refused to attend the ceremony helps the Congress's cause. Politics must be governed by progressive ideals and not religion. But the Bharatiya Janata Party has transformed Hinduism into an organised public affair, forcing other political parties to follow in these footsteps. As the other single-largest national party, it is important for the Congress to take an independent stand.

Nagarajamani M.V.,
Hyderabad

I do not think that the Congress will lose anything by not going to a function, which has become a propaganda instrument for the BJP and the Prime Minister. The Congress does anyway not get too many seats in the Hindi heartland. With many in the BJP attacking the Congress for being "anti-Hindu" and "anti-Ram", one wonders what they have to say to the four Shankaracharyas. Also, with many institutions coming under the shadow of the BJP, one also wonders whether the party is now trying to control religion as well.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee,
Faridabad, Haryana

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Regulating India's online gaming industry

Amar Patnaik

is a Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, from Odisha, and an advocate by profession now. He is a former CAG bureaucrat. Views are personal.
@Amar4Odisha

As we know, market failures manifesting in various forms such as monopolies, externalities, and information asymmetries not only diminish economic value but also erode societal well-being, which results in decline in the trust of users. It is precisely in these cases that government regulatory intervention becomes vital. The measure of adequacy in this context hinges on a simple criterion – the benefits of government intervention must surpass its potential costs. The benefits include safeguarding public interest and trust.

Digital markets

Online services have become central to how most of us live our lives. With a staggering 692 million Internet users, India has the world's second-largest Internet user base and ranks eighth globally in terms of time spent on mobile apps. The average daily mobile app usage has surged to 4.9 hours, a 32% increase since 2019. Notably, a significant 82% of usage is dedicated to media and entertainment with social media accounting for roughly half of this engagement. While this trend has generated significant benefits to people, it has also created new concerns. For instance, the Internet has been inundated with AI-generated deep fake videos of celebrities. These technologically advanced simulations have blurred the lines between what's real and what's not. Market failure in online services has taken new characteristics and complexities due to the intricate interplay of data and algorithms.

The government is responding to these challenges by proposing new forms of digital regulation. Within this landscape, an important sector is online gaming where market failure is becoming evident and yet there is no adequate regulation.

The online gaming industry in India is predominantly a home-grown start-up ecosystem growing at 27% CAGR. It is widely estimated that AI and online gaming can add up to $300 billion to India's GDP by 2026-27. But with great leaps come inherent pitfalls. Similar to other forms of digital media, the meteoric rise of online gaming has brought with it an array of concerns such as addiction, mental illness, suicides, financial frauds, privacy and data security concerns. Money laundering and national security concerns are other realities. The situation is further exacerbated by the growth of illegal offshore gambling and betting markets wherein the volume of digital transactions provides fertile ground for financial malpractices. In July 2023, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance, of which I am a member, identified four major trends in cybercrime. Notably, one includes the use of international online betting sites for purposes such as money laundering.

These issues are symptomatic of a larger problem of market failure, arising primarily out of insufficient regulation. Consider, for instance, the safety and financial ramifications of illegal offshore betting and gambling markets. No mechanism exists for individuals to differentiate between legitimate gaming platforms and illegal gambling/betting sites. In addition, in the absence of a specialised regulatory authority, enforcement is lacking. As a result, the number of illegal operators is multiplying by the day. The illegal offshore gambling and betting market receives $100 billion per annum in deposits from India and has registered a growth rate of 20% in the past three years. Besides causing user harm, the clandestine and untraceable operations of these platforms are causing substantial losses to the exchequer. Estimates indicate that India lost $45 billion per annum in taxation due to operations of illegal offshore markets.

These challenges call for an urgent need for robust regulation of the online gaming industry. Some State governments attempt to ban online gaming. However, the inherent cross-border nature of the Internet makes enforcing such a ban almost impossible, leading to the unintended consequence of legitimate, regulated platforms being replaced by unregulated and potentially harmful ones.

In this context, the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 marked a commendable step towards oversight. However, the delayed notification of Self-Regulatory Bodies has stalled the progress. To protect 373 million gamers in India, who are potentially at risk, it is imperative that the sector is strictly regulated.

The global perspective

The U.K. has a centralised government regulator. In order to track the efficiency of measures undertaken, this body publishes quarterly the effects of regulation in the sector. The recent reports have shown that since 2017, operators who fell afoul of player protection requirements have been subjected to significant multi-million-pound fines. This strict enforcement, coupled with targeted efforts aimed at harm reduction during 2018-22, has led to a decline in both disordered gaming and medium-to-low risk gaming behaviour.

An unregulated market may not deliver the greatest benefit to society overall. According to the International Monetary Fund, a combination of high taxes and a weak, discretionary approach to regulatory enforcement creates the most fertile ground for the proliferation of a shadow economy – an environment in which the Indian online gaming industry is operating. Therefore, establishing a strict regulatory framework is an urgent need, not just for protecting our digital nagriks and national interests, but also to ensure responsible growth of the online gaming sector.

The meteoric rise of online gaming has brought with it an array of concerns such as addiction, mental illness, suicides, financial frauds, privacy and data security concerns

A project in troubled waters

It is time for facts about the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project to come out

STATE OF PLAY

B. Chandrashekhar
chandrashekar.bhalki@thehindu.co.in

The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP), considered to be one of the world's largest multi-purpose projects, is known to have increased the production of foodgrain, particularly paddy, in Telangana over the last five years. However, the project, with its long water tunnels, aqueducts, underground surge pools, and large pumps, has been synonymous with controversy from the stage of conceptualisation.

Problems with the project

The Congress, which recently assumed power in the State, has been opposing the KLIP from the start as the project has practically reduced the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Pranahitha-Chevella Sujala Sravanthi (PCSS) project, conceived by the Congress in 2007 and meant to harness water from the Pranahita tributary of the Godavari river for use in Telangana, to a non-starter. Despite not getting the nod from Maharashtra for the Tummidihetti Barrage, the take-off point of the PCSS, the Congress government in erstwhile combined Andhra Pradesh executed parts of the canal network.

The alleged corruption in the execution of the KLIP was one of the main poll planks for the Congress in its election campaigns in 2018 and 2023, with party leaders going to the extent of charging the then ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) of swindling ₹1 lakh crore in the name of the project. On both occasions, the leaders who led the Congress campaign – N. Uttam Kumar

Reddy and A. Revanth Reddy, respectively – vowed to order an inquiry into the alleged corruption once their party formed the government.

The BRS leadership refuted the charges. It demanded to know how ₹1 lakh crore could be swindled when expenditure on the project was about ₹98,000 crore until the Congress government took over. It accused the Congress's supporters of filing of cases against the project in courts and in the green tribunal with the intention of stalling the project.

What has not helped the BRS's case is the fact that the project has suffered two major setbacks. First, two of the KLIP's pump houses linked to the Medigadda and Annaram Barrages got submerged during the Godavari floods in mid-July 2022. Then, in October last, six piers of the Medigadda Barrage suffered serious damage, forcing the authorities to empty the barrage. The incident exposed cracks and other damages in the downstream of the Annaram and Sundilla Barrages too.

In December, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy announced that a judicial inquiry would be instituted into the alleged corruption and irregularities in the KLIP. BRS leaders also welcomed the probe stating that they too want the truth to come out.

However, the State government was apparently forced to hasten up the process of inquiry by instituting a vigilance inquiry following the alleged burning or missing of some files of the KLIP in one of the project offices. The non-cooperation of some project engineers in submitting information is also understood to have pushed the government to act swiftly. "The Chief Minister has already addressed a letter to the Chief Justice of the High Court for the allotment of a sitting judge for conducting a judicial inquiry into the KLIP irregularities and corruption. In the meantime, we have ordered for a vigilance inquiry," said Minister for Irrigation N. Uttam Kumar Reddy.

Over a dozen teams of the Vigilance and Enforcement Department conducted searches in several offices of the KLIP at Ramagundam, Mahadevpur, Karimnagar, Warangal and Hyderabad including the office of the Engineer-in-Chief and seized records, files, computer hard disks for three days starting January 9.

Investigation

Irrespective of whether it's a Vigilance and Enforcement Department probe or a judicial inquiry by a sitting judge of the High Court, the people of Telangana should be presented with the facts of the case and the reasons for the damage at the barrages. There should also be a thorough technical (expert) investigation into the damage as suggested by the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA). In its examination of the sinking of the six piers, the NDSA had faulted the planning and design of the project in its report and stated that a combination of issues involving planning, design, quality control and operation and maintenance led to the damage.

2023 recorded many of the hottest days on land and sea

2024 started on a worrying note with global average sea surface temperature on a record high

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

The year 2023 was the hottest on record and likely the warmest in 1,00,000 years, according to the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S). Regions such as Europe, North America, and China experienced record-breaking heat.

Several factors made 2023 the warmest year on record, with escalating levels of greenhouse gases playing the biggest role. Additional factors contributing to the record included natural phenomena such as El Nino, a temporary warming in the central Pacific affecting global weather patterns, as well as other oscillations in the Arctic, Southern, and Indian Oceans.

The global average temperature in 2023 was 14.98°C, which was 0.17°C higher than the previous highest annual average in 2016. The planet was also 1.48° Celsius warmer than the pre-industrial average (1850-1900), very close to the 1.5°C mark that countries agreed not to cross in the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Chart 1 shows the monthly global surface air temperature anomalies (°C) relative to the 1991-2020 average. According to the global climate highlights published by C3S, each month from June to December in 2023 was warmer than the corresponding months in any previous year on record. The temperature deviation of 0.93°C recorded in September 2023, compared to the September average in 1991-2020, was the largest deviation recorded in any month in any year. Also, October, November and December 2023, each with a temperature deviation of 0.85°C above average, ranked second-largest in terms of deviations.

Chart 2 shows the number of days in a year when the temperature deviation compared to the pre-industrial average was in the following ranges: 1°C to 1.25°C, 1.25°C to 1.5°C, and 1.5°C or more. The temperature deviation on all the days of 2023 was at least 1°C over the pre-industrial average for that day. The previous record was in 2019, which had 363 such days. In 2023, during two days, the temperature deviation was over the 2°C, the first time the 2°C mark was breached in history. Close to 50% or 173 days in 2023 were over 1.5°C warmer than the pre-industrial average. This was the case in just over 20% or 77 days in 2016, the previous warmest year on record.

Last year also witnessed record-breaking sea surface temperatures. According to C3S, each month from April to December experienced unprecedented global sea surface temperatures for the respective time of the year. August 23 and 24 of 2023 recorded the highest value of 21.02°C surpassing the previous record of 20.95°C set in March 2016. However, that record was broken on January 11 this year, with the global average sea surface temperature reaching 21.06°C, also establishing a record anomaly of 0.77°C above the 1991-2020 average. **Chart 3** plots the daily global sea surface temperature anomalies relative to the 1991-2020 average.

Chart 4 shows the daily extent of Antarctic sea ice from October 1978 to December 2023, measured in million sq km. In eight months of 2023, Antarctic sea ice recorded historically low extents for the corresponding periods. Both daily and monthly extents reached their all-time lows in February 2023. The average Antarctic sea ice extent in December 2023 was 9.3 million km², a deviation of 1.7 million km² (or 15%) below the December average for the period 1991-2020, the second-lowest extent for any December in the 45-year data available. After unprecedented low values for six consecutive months (May-October), the daily extent moved towards values closer to the 1991-2020 average around the middle of December.

Climate emergency

The data for the charts were sourced from the Copernicus Climate Change Service and Climate Reanalyzer

Chart 1: The chart shows the **monthly global surface air temperature anomalies (°C)** relative to the 1991-2020 average

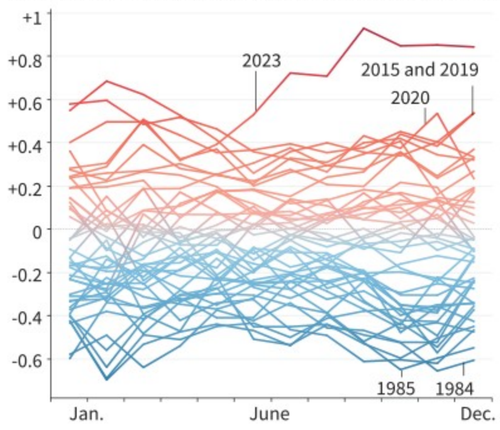


Chart 2: The chart shows the **number of days in a year** when the temperature deviation was 1°C above pre-industrial levels

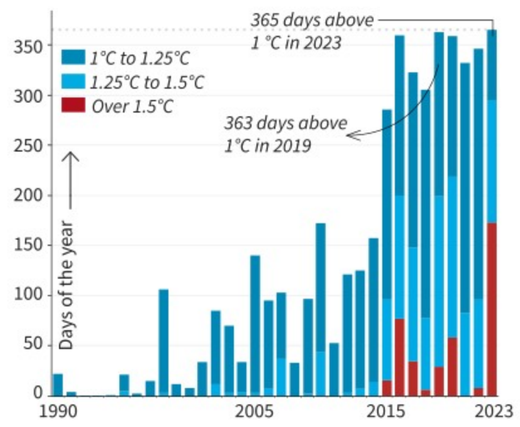


Chart 3: The chart shows the **daily global sea surface temperature anomalies (°C)** relative to the 1991-2020 average

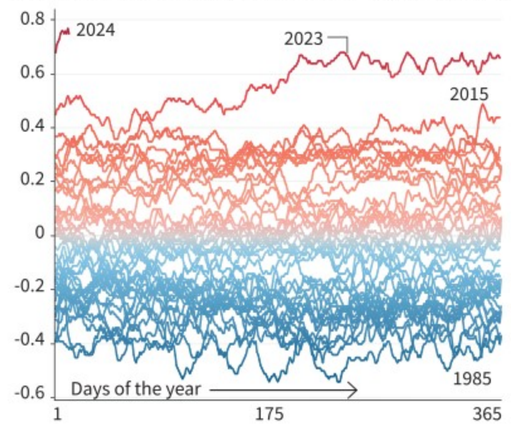
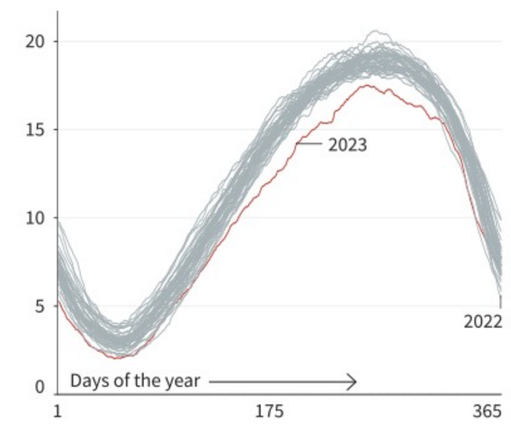


Chart 4: The chart shows the the **daily extent of Antarctic sea ice in million square kilometres**



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FROM THE ISSUE DATED JANUARY 14, 1974 AS THERE WAS NO ISSUE DATED JANUARY 15, 1974

Work of Red Cross at Katpadi praised

Vellore, Jan. 12: Commending the valuable contribution made by the Swedish Red Cross Industries at Katpadi to the global effort made in rehabilitating the physically handicapped people, Count Lewenhaupt, Swedish Ambassador to India, described the project as a true compassionate undertaking in conformity with the ideals of the Red Cross to be in the forefront of the humanitarian movement to bring relief to the suffering people.

Speaking on the occasion of the tenth anniversary celebrations of the Industries, held to-day, he said the project symbolised the excellent Indo-Swedish co-operation.

Referring to the notable work done by the Indian Red Cross Society in the sphere of rehabilitation of disabled persons, he said the Swedish Red Cross worked in close co-operation with the Indian Society in its efforts to fight leprosy.

Mr. Olof Stroh, Secretary General of the Swedish Red Cross, Stockholm, who also participated in the function said that India had the proper climate for starting rehabilitation industries in view of the good response from the people and also the authorities. He recalled how a band of workers including Dr. Paul Brand, formerly of the Christian Medical College Hospital, and Mr. T.N. Jagadisan, of the Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh, made efforts to make the project a success. He presented medals and plaques on behalf of the Swedish Red Cross to the Board of Trustees, the District Collector and others who were associated with the project.

Earlier, Countess Lewenhaupi gave away presents to the workers who have completed 10 years of service in the project.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 15, 1924

Indian Emigration

Vancouver, Jan 12: Sir Jehangir Kothari, who has arrived from the Orient en route to England, in an interview expressed the opinion that Indians emigrating to other parts of the Empire were not entitled to expect franchise. He pointed out that they seldom remained to become contributing citizens in a new country, but returned to India as soon as they had amassed money.

From Page One

Muizzu sets deadline for India to withdraw troops

Both statements referenced a review of bilateral cooperation.

MEA officials did not respond to *The Hindu*'s queries on whether the Ministry has received a formal request for the withdrawal of Indian soldiers. According to the Maldives government, India has around 88 soldiers stationed in the Maldives. New Delhi has maintained that most of them are technical staff, engaged predominantly in maintaining aircraft gifted by India.

Consistent demand

Veteran Indian diplomat Rakesh Sood said that Mr. Muizzu was "playing to his base and presumably, his 'benefactor'". "He is being deliberately provocative but there is little to be gained by India engaging in tit-for-tat rhetoric. Far better to let him realise the relevance of India to Maldives, in socio-economic terms," he said.

The Maldivian president has been consistent in his demand for Indian troops' withdrawal, his chief poll pledge last year. The demand also figured in his inaugural address soon after he assumed office in November 2023. In December, days after his meeting with Mr. Modi in Dubai, Mr. Muizzu announced that India had "agreed" to withdraw its troops, though New Delhi has made no statement to that effect so far. Meanwhile, the High-Level Core Group was set up with top officials from both sides to negotiate the matter, among other key bilateral concerns.

Sunday's developments come amid growing strain in ties between the neighbours, triggered most recently by the remarks of three junior Ministers in the Muizzu administration, who criticised Indians and Mr. Modi over his Lakshadweep visit. The announcement also comes on the heels of Mr. Muizzu's five-day state visit to China, where he agreed to "elevate" strategic ties with Beijing. On his return on Saturday, he told local media that the Maldives may be small, but "will not be bullied" by anyone.

(With inputs from Kallol Bhattacherjee in New Delhi)

Looking for Israel jobs? Read the fine print

Activists are planning to move the court after the NSDC issued a detailed document calling for workers. Calling the move "inhumane", the activists condemned the government's decision to fast-track the recruitment of construction workers, nurses and caregivers even while Israeli operations continue in Gaza and the West Bank. The latest push to screen Indian workers comes after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to "advance" the date of arrival of workers, during a telephone call on December 19.

"This step is against Indian ethos. We are for a ceasefire in Israel. We are concerned about the safety and security of workers," Amarjeet Kaur, general secretary, All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC), told *The Hindu*, adding that trade unions now plan to approach the courts. A pamphlet linked to the NSDC portal billed the job-call as a "passport to dreams abroad", and a chance to "discover new horizons in Israel". It lists 2,000 openings for plastering workers, 2,000 for ceramic tile workers, and 3,000 each for iron bending and frame workers. Monthly salaries are approximately ₹1.37 lakh (6,100 Israeli shekels), from which accommodation, food, and medical insurance costs will be deducted. Advertisements placed by the employment departments of U.P. and Haryana in January have each advertised 10,000 jobs, for which screening will take place.

Passing the buck

While various government agencies formally distanced themselves from the documents themselves from the screening call put out in the name of NSDC International, government sources confirmed that the recruitment process will begin this week with interviews and screening in several cities. NSDC Chief Executive Officer Ved Mani Tiwari told *The Hindu* that the advertisements had been issued by the State governments, not by the NSDC.

"We are not a recruiting company. Some State governments have invited applications for jobs in Israel and our mandate is to provide skill training for workers," Mr. Tiwari said.

The Union Labour Ministry declined to comment on the plans, as did Haryana Labour Minister Anoop Dhanak. "It is the External Affairs Ministry that monitors such migration of workers," an official said on condition of anonymity. However, the Ministry declined to reply to a detailed list of questions sent by *The Hindu* asking what kind of assurances were being requested from the Israeli labour agency – the Population and Immigration Authority, known as PIBA. Officials said that the recruitment was taking place as a "B2B" or business-to-business arrangement, offering little clarity on who will actually be responsible for the eventual fate of the workers.

Some 80 to 100 foreign workers had been killed during the October 7 attacks against Israel and the conflict that has followed, leading many countries – including India – to fly out their expatriate citizens. However, only 1,300 of the 18,000 Indian citizens in Israel opted for the government-run flights as part of Operation Ajay.

The PIBA declined to comment on specific questions about the welfare of the workers, but sources said that they would proceed on the basis of an agreement signed with the Indian government.

New investments slid 46% in Q3 as manufacturing, infra outlays shrank

Fresh project outlays fell sequentially for third straight quarter between October and December 2023; decline in manufacturing investment plans most pronounced in automobiles, steel, and cement sectors; new road projects slumped 56%, fresh railway investment plans plummeted by 92.2%

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Fresh investment plans almost halved between October and December 2023 from the previous quarter, with public capital expenditure projects tripping at a faster pace of almost 60%, while proposed private sector outlays fell 35%.

This marked the third successive quarter of sequential decline in new investment projects after they hit a record high in the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2022-23, data from investment tracking firm Projects Today show.

Proposed investments halved for all sectors barring electricity, with irrigation (down 75%) and manufacturing (61.5% lower) witnessing the sharpest drop.

The decline in manufacturing investment plans came on the back of quarter-on-quarter drops of 77.6% and 2.3% in the first two quarters of 2023-24, respectively and was most pronounced in critical sectors such as automobiles (-63.8%), steel (-74.8%), and cement (-89%).

From around 30% of the ₹7.05-lakh crore of new investments announced in Q2 of this year, manufacturing projects accounted for just 21% or ₹80,000-odd crore of the ₹3.83-lakh crore investments planned in Q3. Overall investment plans dropped 45.7% quarter-on-quarter.

Monsoon, elections

The below-normal monsoon which has dented rural demand recovery and the upcoming Lok Sabha election might have made private companies hold back their new capex plans for a while, Projects Today CEO Shashikant Hegde told *The Hindu*.

"Moreover, reduced capex initiatives at the State levels, with a few States seeing elections and the Central government's efforts to exercise fiscal restraint too contributed to this phenomenon. We expect announcements of fresh investment plans to remain tepid in the last quarter of 2023-24," he said, noting that the global slowdown and uncertain geopolitical scenario are also concerns.

Mr. Hegde stressed that businesses will be keeping an eye out for the new government to take charge in the first quarter of the coming year, and its persistence with the current investor-friendly policies while unleashing more economic reforms that are required to keep the India growth story intact.

Fresh investments in the infrastructure sector, where commitments by the State and Central governments are the highest, fell for the second successive quarter on a sequential basis, contracting 56.1% in Q3 after a 10.9% fall in Q2. While new road projects slumped 56%, with 194 projects worth ₹25,904 crore, fresh railway investment plans plummeted by a much sharper 92.2%, with only 28 new projects announced between October and December worth ₹5,758.6 crore compared with 48 projects worth ₹74,000 crore in the previous quarter.

"After registering a growth of 66.7% in the last quarter of 2022-23, the quarterly announcement of fresh investment by the Central government sector declined by 18.5%, 46.6%, and 72% in the first three quarters of this year, respectively. In all, during the October-December 2023 period, 175 new projects worth ₹29,751 crore were announced in this sector," as per the latest quarterly investment survey from Projects Today. "The Central government seems to have opted for fiscal consolidation by restraining the initiation of new projects in this fiscal," it noted.

The value of new mining projects also dropped 53.7% sequentially to ₹5,813 crore, but the construction sector saw a relatively milder decline of 21.5%, with 675 projects worth ₹81,350 crore announced in the third quarter.

Maharashtra on top

Among the States, Maharashtra emerged as the top investment destination in Q3 with 470 new projects worth ₹1.04-lakh crore, followed by Karnataka (₹43,383 crore), Uttarakhand (₹34,024 crore), and Gujarat (₹31,379 crore). These four States accounted for 56% of the total new investments announced between October and December.

Downward trend
In Q3 of FY24, new investments have decreased quarter-on-quarter across most sectors
Q-o-Q decline in fresh projects by major sectors in Q3/FY24
Sectors | (%)
Manufacturing | -61.5
Mining | -53.65
Electricity | 7.56
Infrastructure | -56.11
Irrigation | -75.07
All Sectors | -45.69
Q-o-Q decline in fresh projects by ownership in Q3/FY24
Ownership | (%)
Government | -59.95
Central Govt. | -72.05
State Govt. | -53.5
Private | -34.76
Private (Indian) | -36.06
Foreign | -18.04
Total | -45.69

Harmony in tradition

Joyful spirits: People take part in a community fishing event in the Bamuni Lake in Guwahati as part of the harvest festival known as Bhogali Bihu on Sunday. PTI

Two more held for attack on ED officials

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

Three ED officials were injured when they went to search the premises of Trinamool Congress leader Shajahan Sheikh

Two more persons were arrested on Sunday in connection with the attack on Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials at Sandeshkhali on January 5, a senior police officer said.

The ED has stated that three of its officers were injured and their belongings snatched in an attack on them at Sandeshkhali in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district when they went to search the premises of Trinamool Congress leader Shajahan Sheikh in connection with its probe into the money trail in an alleged ration distribution scam in the State.

While one of the accused was arrested from a fishery at Nazat, the other was rounded up from Minakha, both in North 24 Parganas district, the police officer said. Four persons have so far been arrested in connection with the mob attack on the ED officials, he added.

FCI should emerge as a trusted partner of farmers, says Goyal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Piyush Goyal

The role of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) is not only to deliver rations but also to instil confidence in farmers and beneficiaries by bringing in transparency, efficiency, and accountability, Union Commerce, Food, and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal said here on Sunday in his address on the 60th foundation day of the FCI.

He said the FCI should emerge as a trusted partner of farmers and people of the country.

"The FCI plays a crucial role in facilitating flagship schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana [PMGKAY] by providing ration to beneficiaries in every corner of the country," the Minister said, reminding the officers that the role of the FCI was not only to deliver ration.

He added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised to make India free of corruption and asked the youth and staff of the FCI to bring in transparency and become whistleblowers.

Mr. Goyal said the FCI should embrace digitisation and technology to improve efficiency. "Quality can be achieved in areas such as inspection, procurement, transportation, distribution, and storage," he said.

Reduce costs

He also suggested the FCI to reduce operational costs through route optimisation, mechanised loading/unloading, innovative storage solutions, and other methods.

The Minister said the open market sale scheme (domestic) operations had also proved to be an effective tool in moderating the prices of wheat and rice.

"Bharat *Atta*, Bharat *Dal*, interventions regarding onion and tomato have assisted the Government of India in price stabilisation," Mr. Goyal said.

Over 600 flights delayed, 76 cancelled as season's 'worst fog' envelops Delhi

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

As the season's worst fog enveloped the northern parts of India, nearly 600 flights were delayed and 76 cancelled at the Indira Gandhi International Airport here on Sunday, resulting in a cascading effect across most airports in the country.

At the Delhi airport, "visibility ranged between zero and 50 metres for 10 hours between 00.30 hours and 11.30 a.m. This was the season's worst fog. The last such spell was seen in December 2019", R.K. Jenamani, senior scientist, India Meteorological Department, told *The Hindu*. There was dense fog across northern India, including in Amritsar, Pathankot, Jammu, Chandigarh, Lucknow, Allahabad, Varanasi, and Patna, he said.

Between 5 a.m. and 7.30 p.m., 245 inbound flights were delayed and 14 cancelled, while 355 outbound flights were delayed and 62 cancelled, shows the flight tracking website Flightradar24.

There were no departures from the Delhi airport till 11 a.m. as the visibility was below the minimum 125 metres. Delhi has only two CAT IIIB-compliant runways, which provide precision instrument landing. One of the runways is shut for recarpeting, worsening the situation.

Airport sources said 10 flights were diverted to Jaipur as airlines had not rostered crew trained for low-visibility operations.

Hazy halt: A dense blanket of fog enveloped Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi on Sunday. ANI

Parking bay full

With departures halted and parking bays packed with outbound aircraft, some flights given the green signal to land waited for over two hours to be assigned a parking bay to allow passengers to deboard. This included an Air India flight from Frankfurt to Delhi and a Virgin Atlantic flight from London.

Delays ranged from five to eight hours throughout the day.

"Was stuck in @airindia AI514 Delhi to Bengaluru for 9 hours from 2:30 a.m. to morning 11:30 a.m. Flight didn't take off due to dense fog. After other flights started operations, this flight didn't take off because captain duty was over. No explanations. Total chaos & all made to deplane," Dr. Senthilkumar S., a passenger, wrote on X.

Cascading effect

The mayhem caused at the Delhi airport spilled over to most airports in the country.

All flights at Jammu were hit, resulting in eight being delayed and seven cancelled.

In Chennai, 47 flights were cancelled because of the cascading impact on various airlines' route networks, said an official of the Airports Authority of India (AAI).

These included inbound and outbound flights from across the country, including Mumbai, Pune, Kolkata, Kochi, and Coimbatore.

Early in the morning, flight schedules were affected because of low visibility in Chennai between 5 a.m. and 8 a.m. due to the smoke from bonfires lit for Bhogi, a festival on the eve of Pongal. This resulted in "five or six flights" being diverted to Hyderabad, the AAI official said.

At the Kolkata airport, 164 flights were affected till 8 p.m., including 45 flights hit by poor visibility in the city itself, while the remaining flights were affected by delays at other airports.

There were 29 cancellations.

The IMD's website said Delhi saw its highest number of fog days in January with an average of 21.6 days affected, compared with 19.2 in December and 12.3 in November.

With his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, Rahul hits the road again in 'fight for justice'

Manipur now symbolises BJP and RSS's politics of hatred, says Congress leader as the 6,713-km march takes off with senior leaders in attendance; Sonia Gandhi absent at launch; yatra to cover 100 Lok Sabha constituencies across 15 States; Modi using religion to seek votes, says Kharge

Sandeep Phukan
THOUBAL/IMPHAL

One year after completing the 4,000-km-long Kanniyakumari-to-Kashmir Bharat Jodo Yatra at Srinagar, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi hit the road again on Sunday by launching the Manipur-to-Mumbai Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra at Thoubal in Manipur "to fight for justice".

The yatra, which will be covered by bus with six to eight km of *padayatra* [foot march] every day, was flagged off by party president Mallikarjun Kharge, who handed the National Flag to Mr. Gandhi in the presence of the party top brass, including Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his Telangana counterpart A. Revanth Reddy, and Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu.

Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi, however, was not present at the launch.

The programme was delayed by about three hours as the special flight carrying the Congress leaders, including Mr. Gandhi, could not take off from Delhi because of poor visibility and dense fog.

Mega mission: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with party general secretary K.C. Venugopal and others during the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Manipur on Sunday. ANI

After reaching Imphal, Mr. Gandhi went to the Khongjom War Memorial at Thoubal to pay homage to the bravehearts of the Anglo-Manipur War of 1891.

Soon after, he addressed a public rally, where he explained why he started the yatra from Manipur. "There was a debate as to where should the next phase of Bharat Jodo Yatra start from. Some people said it should start from the west, some suggested that it should start from east. I clearly stated that the next phase can start only from Manipur and nowhere else. The BJP and the RSS's politics of hatred, their vision, their ideology... Manipur now symbolises what this ideology has done," Mr. Gandhi said.

"Question arises why Nyay Yatra? Because we are going through a period of great injustice in India – social, economic and political injustice. Injustice against the people of Manipur, the traditions of Manipur, but also injustice across the nation," he said.

Monopolies are being built and a few people are controlling the economic resources, while small and medium businesses are being destroyed, he alleged. "Huge levels of unemployment and massive price rise is what the whole of India is facing," the Congress leader said.

"On the social side, the large mass of India's people – the lower castes, Dalits and tribals – simply do not have a say in the governance system of the country. I have given you example upon example of how the large mass of our people are excluded from the political system and from the governance system," the Congress leader said.

Dig at PM's beach visit

Mounting a scathing attack, Mr. Kharge accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of using religion and faith to seek votes. "Everybody has faith in God and remembers God, there is no doubt about that, but don't do this for votes. One should not do *dhongbaazi* [deception] for securing votes... The BJP has Ram on its lips but carries a knife by their side. They should not have such an approach towards people," the Congress chief alleged.

Referring to the recent visit of the Prime Minister to the Lakshwadeep islands, Mr. Kharge asked if Mr. Modi could visit a beach and dive into the sea, why could not he come to Manipur that has been hit by ethnic violence since last May.

Mr. Kharge said a dictatorial attitude prevailed in the country and that the BJP was trying to finish democracy. "We raised questions in Parliament, but the government did not answer and suspended 146 people [MPs]. We said this is undemocratic but they did not listen to us," he said.

Bahujan Samaj Party leader and Lok Sabha member Danish Ali also joined the yatra.

The Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra will cover 6,713 km and will pass through 100 Lok Sabha constituencies across 15 States. Together, these States account for 357 of the 543 Lok Sabha seats. "The yatra is being taken out keeping in mind political, economic, and social injustices committed in the last 10 years. This is an ideological yatra and not an electoral one," Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh said on Saturday.

INBRIEF

Modi to release ₹540 crore for PM-JANMAN beneficiaries

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday will release ₹540 crore – the first instalment of funding – for pucca homes under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) to one lakh Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) beneficiary families as part of the recently launched PM-JANMAN package for the overall development of PVTG habitations. A statement from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs said that Mr. Modi would release the first instalment through video conferencing at noon, following which he was set to interact with the PVTG beneficiaries of the package.

Akhilesh Yadav, Meira Kumar receive Ram Temple invitation

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday thanked the Ram Mandir trust for inviting him to the '*Pran Pratishtha*' on January 22, but said he would visit the temple with his family after the event. Mr. Yadav on Friday had claimed that he had not received any invitation to the consecration ceremony in Ayodhya. The Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Sunday said that senior Congress leader and former Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar had been formally invited to attend the consecration ceremony at the Ram Temple. The VHP spokesperson shared pictures of Ms. Kumar receiving the invitation.

Shinde's Sena faction gets a 'Delhi face' in Milind Deora

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The BJP views the switchover by former Congress MP Milind Deora to the Shiv Sena faction led by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde as a move that would provide the faction a "Delhi face" that it lacks currently. The party also feels that more such changes would take place once seat-sharing talks among the INDIA bloc parties move ahead.

"The Shiv Sena (Shinde faction) lacks a face in national politics, in Delhi. Milind Deora, if not the Lok Sabha ticket, will come to Delhi via the Rajya Sabha for sure," a senior BJP leader said.

After the split in the Shiv Sena, the BJP had felt that while Mr. Shinde won all the legal and numbers-based battles in the legislature, the reasons for the split were not articulated in a way that would evoke sympathy among voters.

"Last year, there had been a request from the State unit of the BJP to have a double-ticket election in the State – that is, Lok Sabha and Assembly polls (which are due later in 2024) at the same time – since there would be the preponderance of the Modi factor over that period," the source said. Some setbacks in bypolls also encouraged the view that the Shinde faction needed to get as much space in the media narrative. "The Uddhav Thackeray faction gets a lot of airplay thanks to people like (Rajya Sabha MP) Sanjay Raut. The Shinde set of MPs are least interested in Delhi politics," the source added.

Sources said Mr. Deora was unhappy with the fact that the Mumbai South seat, which he represented in 2004 and 2009, and is currently being held by Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Arvind Sawant, may go to that party in the seat-sharing arrangement being worked out by the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) partners.

Milind Deora ends his family's 55-year ties with Congress, joins Shiv Sena

Abhinay Deshpande
MUMBAI

Senior Congress leader Milind Deora, considered a close friend of Rahul Gandhi, quit the grand old party on Sunday, ending his family's 55-year association with the Congress. He joined the Shiv Sena faction led by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde in Mumbai.

The resignation came hours after he dismissed as "rumours" that he was on his way out of the Congress. The switchover took place on a day Mr. Gandhi launched the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra from Manipur.

The Congress leaders have attributed the sequence of events to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP-led ruling coalition in the State, with senior leader Jairam Ramesh claiming that the timing of Mr. Deora's exit had been decided by Mr. Modi for "headline management" to counter the yatra.

"The *mahurat* (auspicious moment) was decided by the guru of headline management, sitting in Lok Kalyan Marg [official residence of the Prime Minister]," Mr. Ramesh told *The Hindu*.

"If one Milind Deora goes away, lakhs of Milinds who believe in our organisation and ideology stay," the Congress leader said.

New stage: Chief Minister Eknath Shinde welcoming Milind Deora, who joined the Shiv Sena, in Mumbai on Sunday. PTI

The former South Mumbai MP, along with a battery of supporters, mostly from the business community, was welcomed to the ruling party by Mr. Shinde at Varsha, the official residence of the Chief Minister. Soon after donning the saffron scarf, Mr. Deora called it a "very emotional day". "I had never thought I would quit Congress."

'No negative politics'

The 47-year-old said the Congress, which used to offer constructive suggestions for the development of the country, now had only one goal and that was to speak against Prime Minister Modi. "My ideology is to work for the people. I don't believe in abusing people and doing negative politics. Those who have no agenda, no positive programme to take the country forward will continue to speak negatively," said Mr. Deora, a two-time former MP from the country's richest constituency. He lost the seat to Arvind Sawant of the Uddhav Thackeray faction of the Shiv Sena in 2014.

Part of Team Rahul

Mr. Deora also remembered his father, the late Murli Deora's association with Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray.

Murli Deora, a former Union Minister, was a four-term MP from the same seat before his son was elected in 2004 at 27.

Mr. Deora stood out as one of India's youngest MPs and was known to be a member of Team Rahul Gandhi, a collective of young leaders, including Jyotiraditya Scindia, R.P.N. Singh, Jitin Prasada, and Sachin Pilot.

Except Mr. Pilot, all have switched allegiances.

We are prepared to protect territorial integrity at all costs, says Army chief

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Indian Army continues to maintain a "robust posture" on the borders and is prepared to protect the country's territorial integrity at "all costs", Army chief General Manoj Pande said on Sunday, amid the over three-year festering border row with China in eastern Ladakh. On the eve of Army Day, General Pande said the force is fully committed with an "unwavering resolve" to counter any security threat, asserting that its fundamental character, core ethos and professionalism will enable it to live up to the expectations of citizens.

"We continue to maintain a robust posture at the borders and stand prepared to protect our territorial integrity at all costs," he said in a message aired on Akashvani.

Without naming Pakistan, General Pande said the Army and other security forces are dealing with the "proxy war" in Jammu and Kashmir with a professional approach. "In combating proxy war in the hinterland, our synergised operations with other security forces continue," he said.

The Army will be observing 2024 as the 'Year of Technology Absorption' – a theme which underscores the focus and effort to leverage technology, as a catalyst for transformative change, General Pande said.

Urdu poet Munawwar Rana passes away at 71

Press Trust of India
LUCKNOW

Renowned Urdu poet Munawwar Rana passed away at the Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences in Lucknow on Sunday. He was 71.

He was suffering from throat cancer for a long time. The poet is survived by his wife, four daughters, and a son. He will be laid to rest on Monday.

Munawwar Rana

'*Maa*' is considered one of his most famous poems.

WESTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED G20
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
Coal Estate, Civil Lines, Nagpur - 440001, Maharashtra, India. Website - www.westerncoal.in
NOTICE
All the tenders issued by CIL and its subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of **Coal India Limited (www.coalindia.in)**, respective subsidiary company **(WCL, www.westerncoal.in), CIL e-procurement portal (https://coalindiatenders.nic.in)** and central public procurement portal **(https://eprocure.gov.in)**. Bids for the tender can be submitted through **http://coalindiatenders.nic.in** only. Corrigendum/Addendum, if any, are published on **http://coalindiatenders.nic.in** only. In addition, procurement is also being done through GeM portal **(https://gem.gov.in)**.
"Give a missed call on toll free number 18002003004 to get our apps"

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED
WBSETCL
(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise)
Registered Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091
CIN: U40101WB2007SGC113474 • web: www.wbsetcl.in
NIT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/CT & PT/23-24/27 (2nd call) Date: 15.01.2024
E-Tender is being invited for procurement of Current & Potential Transformer of various voltage class. Bid documents can be downloaded from **15.01.2024, 12:00 Noon** and bids shall be submitted (online) up to **04:00 P.M., 09.02.2024**. Visit the following websites:- **https://www.wbtenders.gov.in, www.wbsetcl.in** for details.
ICA- T976(3)/2024

KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
CORRIGENDUM
Corrigendum of Tender Reference No. KMC/DG(TNP)/61/2023-2024, Tender ID: 2023_KMC_560632_1 published in this Newspaper on **12.01.2024 (Key No. 1256/23-24) of TP&DD/TNP Department.** Last date and time of submission of bid will be read as (online) **15.01.2024 at 2 p.m.** instead of 13.01.2024 at 2 p.m. Bid opening date and time for technical proposal (online) will be read as **15.01.2024 at 3 p.m.** instead of 13.01.2024 at 3 p.m. Other terms and condition remain unchanged.
1266/23-24

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAKSHADWEEP ADMINISTRATION**
(Department of Health Services)
KAVARATTI ISLAND 682 555
Phone: 04896 263650, E mail: gnckavaratti@gmail.com
F.No.5/9/2021-DHS (Part) Vol.I Dated: 12 .01.2024.
NOTIFICATION
Application for the post Principal Cum Professor, Associate Professor and Tutor on contract for Govt. Nursing College, Kavaratti, U.T. of Lakshadweep has been invited. The application and other details can be had from **www.lakshadweep.gov.in.** The last date of submission of application will be on **01st February 2024.**
Sd- (DR.SHRIKANT R TAPDIYA, (DANICS)
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
KMML
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam Kollam 691583
Phone: 0476-2651215 to 217 E-Mail :md@kmml.com
TENDER NOTICE
For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal: https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

No	Tender Id	Items
1	2024_KMML_641570_1	For the supply of portable 100 KVA,3PH,415 V,50 HZ Diesel Generator unit
2	2023_KMML_637441_1	For the supply of Low-density Polythene (LDPE) Film/Sheet
3	2024_KMML_643013_1	For fabrication & supply of Brine Mixing Cum Balancing Tank
4	2024_KMML_643054_1	For fabrication & supply of Sulphuric Acid Scrubber D307
5	2024_KMML_643206_1	For the supply of Girth Gear(in two halves) assembly for Digester-1 No
6	2024_KMML_643377_1	Land Remediation of Test patch area inside KMML premises

Chavara 12.01.2024 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

ODISHA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION, BHUBANESWAR
OSRTC
No. 100/IMTR-59/2023 **Date:** 13/01/24
The Chairman-Cum-Managing Director, Odisha State Road Transport Corporation (OSRTC), Bhubaneswar has invited a Request for Proposal (RFP) For Event Management Agency for Odisha State Road Transport Corporation under LAccMI Scheme for OSRTC through the tendering process. The Tender documents will be available on OSRTC website **www.osrtc.in** on Dt.**13.01.2024**.
The interested firms / agencies should submit their proposals at OSRTC from Dt. **13.01.2024** to Dt. **25.01.2024** up to **12:00 PM** and the same will be opened on Dt. **25.01.2024** at **2:00 PM** at OSRTC conference hall.
For any doubt, agencies / firms may contact Mr. **Rashmi Pani** on **9937567240** to address the issue during office hours.
The Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals without assigning any reason thereof.
Sd/-
Additional Secretary, (LAccMI)
CAD- OIPR-38002/11/0024/2324

Advertisement No. MoES/NCCR/ MRD-Manpower/3/2023
Government of India
Ministry of Earth Sciences
National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR)
NIOT Campus, Velachery – Tambaram Main Road
Pallikaranai, Chennai- 600 100
WALK IN INTERVIEW FOR PROJECT SCIENTISTS
National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), Chennai, an attached office of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) Chennai requires following positions on project mode (temporary basis) for the project on **"Studies on Seagrass ecosystem in Indian Coast and Oceanic Island"** initially for a period of one year extendable till 31.03.2026 based on their performance.
The details of project positions, emoluments and number of vacancies are as given below:

Name of Post	No. of vacancies	Monthly Emoluments
Project Scientist-I Max. Age Limit: 40 years	3	Rs.56,000/- + HRA

Details on essential qualification, experience and nature of work can be seen from the website: **www.nccr.gov.in**
Interested candidates should report for the recruitment process on **08.02.2024** at **10:00 AM** with a copy of the CV and relevant original certificates stating the educational qualifications/experience along with a photocopy of these documents. No TA/DA will be provided for attending the interview.
Director

Rising sea, shrinking sands erode vibrancy of Ganga Sagar Mela

Shiv Sahay Singh
SAGAR

Rising sea level and erosion of the beach in front of the Kapil Muni temple on Sagar Island are turning out to be a damper on the Ganga Sagar Mela as the West Bengal government is desperately seeking a "national fair" status for the annual religious congregation.

As thousands of pilgrims descend on the island in the southernmost tip of West Bengal for the dip on the occasion of Makar Sankranti, about one kilometre of the beach in front of the temple is covered with mud. The administration has put up warning signs and diverted pilgrims to other beaches on the island, away from the temple, for the holy dip.

With the auspicious holy dip for Makar Sankranti starting at 13 minutes past midnight on Monday, several Ministers of the West Bengal government had been expressing helplessness in maintaining the island. "We cannot fight nature," Irrigation Minister Partha Bhowmick said on Sunday. Minister Arup Biswas, too, conveyed a similar message the previous day.

On Saturday, Sumit Gupta, District Magistrate of South 24 Parganas, evaded a question on erosion and said only experts could take a call.

Tetrapods installed

Mr. Bhowmick, however, said that pilgrims would not face any problems.

The State government has put up tetrapods – a form of wave-dissipating concrete block – to arrest erosion along the Ganga Sagar beach. The Irrigation Minister said that the impact of tetrapods in arresting sea erosion would be known only after the monsoon.

Gradual decline: The beach in front of the Kapil Muni temple on the Ganga Sagar Island are eroding, leaving pilgrims with little space for a dip. DEBASISH BHADURI

Speaking about the tidal surges and fast-changing landscape of the Sunderbans, Mr. Bhowmick said a *char* land (land formed because of sediment deposition in the river) had formed near the Sagar Island, which the local people had not even thought of.

The West Bengal government has spent about ₹25 crore on dredging the island. This is about 10% of the estimated budget of the Ganga Sagar Mela which is pegged at ₹250 crore.

Growing concern

Erosion of a large stretch of the island has come as an embarrassment when the Ministers and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee wanted the Ganga Sagar Mela to be accorded a national fair status.

On January 11, Ms. Banerjee wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in this regard.

"...considering the uniqueness, significance, magnitude and spiritual depth associated with the Ganga Sagar Mela, I would earnestly appeal to you to kindly consider to declare the Mela a National Fair," she had written.

With the sea level rising, the water is close to reaching the Kapil Muni temple. Local people and experts point out that earlier temples of Kapil Muni had gone under the sea.

Tuhin Ghosh, a Professor at the School of Oceanographic Studies at Jadavpur University, recalled that the remnants of the earlier temples had been visible till about 30 years ago.

"There were sand dunes and vegetation, followed by a flat beach. Gradually, the vegetation and undulations were cleared and made flat for extension of the mela ground. Since these barriers were done away with, the attacks of waves have increased. This is mostly created by human interventions," Professor Ghosh explained.

Experts also point out that most of the constructions on Sagar Island has been done in violation of the Coastal Regulation Zone.

"Due to the lack of sediment influx from the Ganga-Meghna-Brahmaputra river system, there is accretion of landmass towards the Meghna delta and we are losing land in the Sundarbans," Professor Ghosh added.

INBRIEF

'Elephant alert' signboards go up in conflict zones in Assam

Human-elephant conflict zones beyond areas adjoining the national parks and wildlife sanctuaries are sporting warning signboards for the first time in Assam. Aaranyak, an Assam-based biodiversity conservation group, has put up 12 signboards at strategic locations in Udalguri, Tamulpur, and Baksa districts to ensure the safe passage of wildlife and people across busy roads. The districts are in the Bodoland Territorial Region bordering Bhutan. The signage is aimed at mitigating conflicts in some of the most vulnerable stretches in the country. "The signboards highlight the elephant's presence in the area and how we all must be careful to avoid unwanted encounters with elephants and improve safety for both people and elephants," Bibhuti Prasad Lahkar, Aaranyak's senior conservation scientist, said.

Govt calls for nominations for 'Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar'

The government on Sunday called for nominations for 'Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar', the first-ever national science awards, from individuals or teams in various fields of science, technology and technology-led innovation. The awards, given across four categories, were instituted last year after scrapping more than 300 awards given by different institutions, and will comprise a medal and a citation but no cash prize. The last date for filing of nominations is February 28, which is celebrated as National Science Day. The awards will be announced on May 11, National Technology Day, which is the anniversary of the Pokhran-II nuclear tests. The awards will be conferred on August 23, National Space Day, to commemorate Chandrayaan-3 mission's soft landing on the moon. PTI

Scant snow snaps skiers' plans in Shimla and Kufri

Still no sight of season's first snowfall; holding events in higher altitude slopes too might become impossible if the trend of decreased snowfall of the past few years holds, say organisers

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

Falling snow cover and warmer temperatures over the years are pushing the ski slope regions from the middle-altitude hills of Himachal Pradesh to the higher reaches, leaving ski enthusiasts dejected and triggering anxiety among winter sports lovers about the changing climate pattern.

A dry patch of ski-slope visible at Solang in Himachal Pradesh's Manali on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

It is mid-January, but Shimla is yet to get the season's first snowfall. Over the past decade, the city has been witnessing an inconsistent, abrupt, and reducing trend of snowfall. This has forced winter sports enthusiasts to move to the higher reaches of the mountains to scout for snow-capped slopes.

In the past, Kufri town, a popular tourist spot at around 8,800 feet, was a paradise for skiers. However, given the gradual decrease in snowfall and rampant construction on the once-pristine ski slopes there, skiers now prefer high-altitude slopes in the Solang valley in Manali, and at Keylong and Sissu in Lahaul-Spiti district, situated at 9,000-10,300 feet.

"This year, so far, there has been no substantial snowfall at Kufri. Last week, mild snowflakes occurred which were negligible. The trend of decreasing snowfall has been seen for around two decades now. The snow months have shrunk. This is an ominous sign for winter sports. Till the mid-1990s, there used to be snowfall in November as well, and intermittent spells of snow often continued till March and even beyond at times. But in the past [few] years, the pattern has changed and snow spells have been largely limited to January-February.. Kufri, which was once the first choice of ski lovers since the British time, is now losing its winter charm," Sanjeev Atri, a retired ski instructor based in Kufri, told *The Hindu*.

The rampant construction of commercial buildings on the ski-friendly slopes of Kufri is another reason for ski enthusiasts turning away from this destination, he said.

While Shimla has had no snowfall this winter, last year's situation was hardly any different – just 6 cm of snow the entire season, the third lowest in the city's recorded history, says the India Meteorological Department (IMD). While 2005-06 was another no-snow year, the city recorded a scant 1.8 cm of snowfall in 2009-10.

Over the past few years, the snowfall recorded in Shimla has faced several ups and downs: 31.5 cm in 2010-11, 119.4 cm in 2011-12, 92.8 cm in 2012-13, 76 cm in 2013-14, 83.8 cm in 2014-15, 25 cm in 2015-16, 106.5 cm in 2016-17, 20.8 cm in 2017-18, 128.8 cm in 2018-19, 198.7 cm in 2019-20, 67 cm in 2020-21 and 161.7 cm in 2021-22.

"The data indicates that Shimla is witnessing a decreasing snowfall. A decreasing trend of snowfall and rainfall on average has been observed across the State during the past decade or so, and it is naturally a matter of concern. A gradual temperature rise could be a reason behind this," said Surender Paul, Director of IMD at Shimla.

Concerned over the depleting snow, Himachal Pradesh Winter Games Association president Luder Thakur pointed out that organising winter sports this year had turned difficult even on higher altitude slopes given the absence of decent snow cover.

"In the past few years, after Kufri started witnessing less and abrupt snowfall, the skiers shifted to higher altitude slopes... we have been organising winter sports competitions on slopes at Sissu and Keylong in the Lahaul-Spiti district, besides at Solang Valley in Manali. To have a decent and groomed ski slope for skiing, there should be at least 2-3 feet of snow on the slope, and intermittent spells should continue. However, this year, as there has not been a rich spell of snow so far, the winter sports enthusiasts are dejected. We are eagerly waiting for snowfall as we are to hold the junior national winter games, which includes alpine skiing, cross country, and snowboarding at Sissu, but with slopes staying dry in the absence of snow, the wait is getting longer," he said.

The spirit of Pongal evokes '*Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat*': PM

Narendra Modi being felicitated by L. Murugan during a programme organised in New Delhi on the occasion of Pongal. PTI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday likened the spirit of the festival of Pongal to that of national unity, one of "*Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat*".

Addressing a gathering at Union Minister L. Murugan's residence to mark the festival of Pongal celebrated in Tamil Nadu, Mr. Modi said that the same emotive connection of unity could be seen in his government's programmes of Kashi-Tamil Sangamam and Kashi-Saurashtra Sangamam, where links between these geographically distant areas could be celebrated.

"This feeling of unity is the biggest force to build a Viksit Bharat by 2047. The main element of the 'Panch Pran' that I have invoked from the Red Fort is to energise the unity of the country and to strengthen the unity," he said.

Quoting saint-poet Thiruvalluvar, Mr. Modi underscored the role of educated citizens, honest businessmen, and a good crop in nation-building. "During Pongal, fresh crop is offered to God which puts *annadata kisans* at the centre of this festive tradition," he said.

He underlined the rural, crop, and farmer connection of every festival of India.

Recalling one of his speeches that dwelt on the connection between millets and Tamil traditions, he expressed happiness that there was a "new awareness" about the "superfood Shri *anna*" (millets) and many youth had taken up start-up ventures on millets. He said that over three crore farmers were directly benefited by the promotion of millets.

He concluded his speech with a call for a rededication to the resolution of strengthening the unity of the nation.

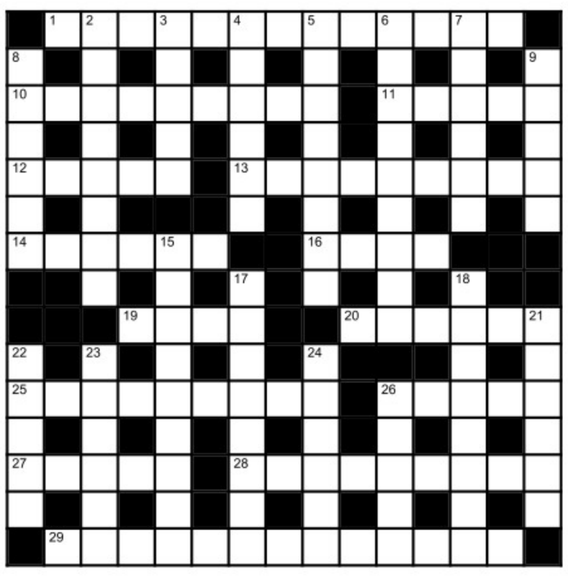
A cultural programme was also presented during the function.

TH CROSSWORD + 14072

(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Logical to back a new police officer at institute to be encouraging (13)
10 Upgrading commercial vehicle using CGI creatively ushering in new beginning (9)
11 Forge case (5)
12 Members of Satsang elated by saint (5)
13 Loner's opening very short and tense (9)
14 Eventually, by losing following and some supremacy, feminist will be broken (2,4)
16 Current loadshed dynamic in parts (4)
19 Overthrown king unlocked (4)
20 Increasing verbosity! Sack the leader (6)
25 A fine caterer employed for medical support (9)
26 Sailor's a feet from facing toward the stern (5)
27 Some infection in game leads to life-threatening disease (5)
28 After leaving Goa, aborigine wandering worried with drunkard (9)
29 Brainwashed dictator in den scheming (13)

Down

2 Direct vehicle to reverse near entrance beyond second pillar (8)
3 Board will finally interfere to check misfired plan (5)
4 Stirred martinis spending money and some tips for Sultana, perhaps (6)
5 Pronto, get heroine extract as a team (8)
6 Shifted food afield to be distributed after deiodination (9)
7 Surprised that an E-Commerce giant is off feeds frequently (6)
8 Half of country wants a cricket team for state (6)
9 Say, canines getting unhinged run amok on eighteenth (5)
15 Steward with serious mood swings (5-4)
17 Musician at first was backed by agency (8)
18 Idol facing, say, disgrace to wander off (8)
21 0-1, got her in rally (6)
22 Vixen is glad when power's right (5)
23 Nicked to first slip, Len caught the first ball (6)
24 Oriental people follow visionary finally, one from Middle East (6)
26 Say, vessel held in Malta or Taiwan (5)

SUDOKU

	7		2			4		1
		4			8			
6				3				7
4			9				1	
		5				7		
	1				5			8
3				1				6
			3			9		
9		6			2		5	

No.SS6039 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

C		S		F		B		P		B		G		P
O	U	T	S	I	D	E		O	C	A	R	I	N	A
P		R		L		A		L		N		M		R
U	N	A	R	M	E	D		L	O	G	I	C	A	L
L		F				L		U		L		R		A
A	M	E	N	D	M	E	N	T		A	G	A	I	N
				I				E		D		C		C
C	H	E	L	S	E	A		S	P	E	C	K	L	E
A		X		P		S				S				
M	A	C	L	E		H	I	T	C	H	C	O	C	K
O		U		N		T		I				V		I
M	I	S	U	S	E	R		E	A	R	N	E	S	T
I		E		A		A		U		I		R		S
L	A	M	P	R	E	Y		P	O	S	T	D	O	C
E		E		Y		S		S		E		O		H

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

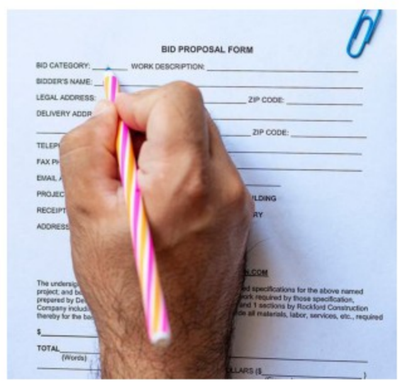
2	6	4	8	7	1	3	9	5
8	5	9	4	3	6	7	2	1
3	1	7	9	5	2	6	8	4
4	7	6	3	9	5	8	1	2
1	2	8	6	4	7	5	3	9
9	3	5	2	1	8	4	7	6
7	9	2	5	8	4	1	6	3
5	8	3	1	6	9	2	4	7
6	4	1	7	2	3	9	5	8

FAITH

Pongal: salutations to Surya

During Pongal, falling on the first day of the Tamil month of Thai, one should seek the blessings of elders, one's ancestors and pray for guidance to lead a life free of sins. From times unknown, worship of Surya, the sun god and the ultimate source of energy, has been in practice. The Vedas highlight sun worship. Pongal is the start of Uttarayan, where the sun turns north and travels for six months. The auspiciousness of Uttarayan is evident from the fact that Bhishma patiently waited for many days for Ratha Saptami to commence, in order to end his sojourn on earth, said Dhamal S Ramakrishnan.

When Ravana seemed indefatigable in the battle, sage Agastya advised Rama to recite Aditya Hrudayam and focus on Surya before the war. Generally, Surya is visualised as riding a chariot drawn by seven horses and praying to him negates the seven sins. These are sins caused by one's words, by body, by one's mind, misdeeds in current birth, those done in previous janma, sins committed knowingly and those carried out unknowingly. Being an agrarian society, the worship of Surya has been extant, and it is common practice to make an offering to Surya, one portion of the harvest yield. Zodiacally, the sun moves from Dhanur to Makar rasi, wherefore the festival is also referred to as Makar Sankranti.



Making a simple job tough

COVERNOTE

A straightforward document, many a time nomination forms are stingy with space for nominee details. Each entity has a different, flummoxing and irritating format

K. Nitya Kalyani

Nomination is an elegant concept. I make an investment with or through a financial entity.

Examples are FD with a bank, mutual fund units with a fund house, perhaps through a broker, shares etc., through a securities account, some bonds directly but to be credited into my demat account and so on. By way of contingency planning, I instruct/authorise this entity to give the money to a specified person or persons when I die.

Based on a nomination, the financial entity can hand over the proceeds to the nominee and fulfill its responsibility towards me in entirety.

Who can be my nominee and who else, if that be the case, is the final intended beneficiary of my money is a different side of things and we will go into them another time. What happens if I fail to nominate also is a subject for another day. Now we are only looking at the process and its documentation.

Many have struggled to streamline and receive their loved ones' financial investments, count me among them. A forgotten nomination is a major culprit in many cases.

The nomination form is a very straightforward document, or so it should be. My name, personal information, information about the investment and centrally, the name and identifying personal data about the nominee/s.

Each entity has a different, fancy, flummoxing and irritating document. Starting off with a full-fledged letterhead type name, logo and even an advertisement tag line, it goes on to dense legal language, where you have to tick this and strike off that.

I live in a building that has a lovely Indian name, resonating with history and culture. And it is long. Once I pen that in, I can't even write 'Chennai' after that. Too bad. There are predetermined number of squares tightly printed and that's all I get!

More parsimonious is the space allotted for nominee name and details. And here I thought this was the hero of the whole story!

I have taken to saying a mental prayer and squiggling in our South Indian names that are pretty, evocative, and yes, long, in any nearby space. Luckily the number of digits in PAN numbers is a given and the requisite number of squares are available. That, I think, will finally settle the matter when the nomination has to be given effect to.

I have quietly blessed those behind the Association of Mutual Funds of India (AMFI) which has put out a set of documents for transmission that can be used across mutual funds/ fund houses.

They are simple, lucid and mostly one-page documents for nomination, ECS mandate, change of address, transmission application to transfer the investment of a deceased person to the nominee/s.

On to online nominations in the next instalment.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

Throwing in incentives: Some lenders offer lower interest rates to those opting for lower LTV ratios. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Things to keep in mind before going for home loan

While most buyers usually focus on interest rates, there are other factors to be considered for increasing loan-approval chances at optimal cost, ensuring uninterrupted loan servicing thereon

LOAN CHOICE

Ratan Chaudhary

For most home buyers, availing a home loan is the only way to realise home-ownership aspirations. While most buyers usually focus on interest rates during loan selection, there are other factors to be considered for increasing loan-approval chances at an optimal cost and ensuring uninterrupted loan servicing thereon.

Here are some crucial checkpoints for those planning to avail the loans:

> Failing to repay home loan EMIs during financial emergencies can cost hefty penalties; to avoid the situation, include 6 months' EMIs in an emergency fund

> As an alternative, one can also consider home loan overdraft schemes like Max Saver, Maxgain etc., where an overdraft account is opened and linked to loan account

Create a corpus

As per RBI guidelines, banks and Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) can finance up to 75-90% of the properties' value in the form of home loans. The proportion of the property cost financed is termed as LTV ratio. In case of home loans of up to ₹30 lakh, the RBI has capped the LTV ratio at 90%. In case of home loans between ₹30 lakh and ₹75 lakh and above ₹75 lakh, the ratios have been capped at 80% and 75% respectively. The balance has to be financed by the borrower himself in the form of margin contribution or down payment.

The final LTV ratio would also depend on the credit risk policies of the lenders. Thus, one should aim at creating a financial corpus of at least 10-25%, preferably higher, of the target-property's value. A higher down payment would reduce the interest cost and can also raise the chances of loan approval. Some lenders offer lower interest rates to those opting for lower LTV ratios.

Optimum loan tenure

Home-loan tenures usually range from 10 to 30 years. While a shorter tenure results in lower interest cost, it also leads to bigger EMIs. Moreover, lenders prefer to lend to those whose total EMIs, including those of the planned home loans, are within 50-60% of the monthly income. Applicants exceeding this ratio have lower chances of loan approval. One should use home loan EMI calculators online to find out whether total EMIs would be within the aforementioned limit. If it does not, borrowers can opt for a longer loan tenure and/or make a higher down payment to increase home-loan eligibility.

Credit report

Credit score is one of the first filters used by the lenders for evaluating loan applications. Applicants with strong credit history and good credit score have higher chances of loan approval. Many lenders also offer lower interest rates to those with higher credit scores. One should ideally have credit score of 750 or above. The first step towards building a strong credit score would be to fetch credit report at regular intervals. Then, report discrepancies in the credit report, if any, to the credit bureau(s) for rectification.

Also, one must follow healthy credit practices like repaying credit bills/ EMIs by the due dates, monitoring guaranteed or joint loans and avoiding multiple loan/credit card applications within a short duration to steadily improve credit score.

In case you have never availed any loan or credit card, build credit score by availing credit cards. If you are unable to do so due to eligibility constraints, then opt for secured credit cards to buildcredit score.

Compare loan offers

Interest rates, tenures, LTV ratios and even the loan amount offered by various lenders can vary widely depending on their credit risk policy. This makes it important to compare loan offers from as many lenders as possible, before taking the final call.

Start the process by first reaching out to lenders with whom you maintain deposits or have availed loans or credit cards. Some lenders offer lower rates to existing customers with good credit profiles. Then, visit online financial marketplaces to compare the loan offers of other lenders based on your credit profile. Opt for the lender offering the optimum deal in terms of total borrowing cost and EMI affordability.

Emergency fund

Failing to repay home loan EMIs during financial emergencies can cost hefty penalties and adversely impact one's credit score. The best way to avoid this is to include the home loan EMIs of at least six months in the emergency fund.

As an alternative, one can also consider home loan overdraft schemes like Max Saver, Maxgain etc. In these schemes, an overdraft account is opened in the form of savings or current account and linked to the loan account. One can park surpluses in this account and make withdrawals as per requirements. The interest cost would then be calculated after deducting the balance in the overdraft account from the outstanding loan amount. Thus, the overdraft facility would help in reducing the total interest cost while ensuring liquidity during financial exigencies.

(The writer is Head of Home Loans, Paisabazaar)

Personal Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	**Interest Rate (%)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**Processing fee**
HDFC Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to Rs 4,999
Tata Capital	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3.5%
State Bank of India	11.15-15.30	10,909-11,974	2,182-2,395	NIL (till 31st January 2024)
ICICI Bank	10.65 onwards	10,784 onwards	2,157 onwards	Up to 2.50%
Bank of Baroda	11.40-18.75	10,971-12,902	2,194-2,580	Up to 2% (min Rs 1,000 and max Rs 10,000)
Axis Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 2%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3%
Bank of India	10.75-14.75	10,809-11,829	2,162-2,366	Up to 1% (Max Rs 5,000)
Canara Bank	10.65-15.65	10,784-12,066	2,157-2,413	Up to 1%
Punjab National Bank	10.40-16.95	10,772-12,413	2,144-2,483	Up to 1%
HSBC Bank	9.99-16.00	10,621-12,159	2,124-2,432	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	11.49 onwards	10,994 onwards	2,199 onwards	Up to 3%
Union Bank of India	11.35-15.45	10,959-12,013	2,192-2,403	Up to 1% (Max Rs 7,500)
Bajaj Finserv	11.00 onwards	10,871 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3.93%
Punjab & Sind Bank	10.15-12.80	10,660-11,325	2,132-2,265	Up to 1%
South Indian Bank	12.85-20.60	11,338-13,414	2,268-2,683	Up to 2%
UCO Bank	12.45-12.85	11,236-11,338	2,247-2,268	Up to 1% (Min Rs 750)
IDFC First Bank	10.75 onwards	10,809 onwards	2,162 onwards	Up to 3.50%
Bank of Maharashtra	10.00-12.80	10,624-11,325	2,125-2,265	1% (Rs 1,000-Rs 10,000)
Karnataka Bank	13.41	11,482	2,296	Up to 2% of loan amount (Min. Rs 2,500 & Max. Rs 8,500)
IndusInd Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3%

Car Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	**Interest Rate (%)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**Processing fee**
Union Bank of India	9.15 - 10.45	10,416 - 10,735	Rs 1,000
Punjab National Bank	8.75 - 10.60	10,319 - 10,772	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 1,500)
Bank of Baroda	8.75 - 12.70	10,319 - 11,300	Up to Rs 500
Canara Bank	8.70 - 11.95	10,307 - 11,110	Waived off till 31st January 2024
Bank of India	8.75 - 10.75	10,319 - 10,809	Nil
UCO Bank	8.45 - 10.55	10,246 - 10,759	Nil
State Bank of India	8.75 - 9.80	10,319 - 10,554	Nil
IDBI Bank	8.75 - 9.55	10,319 - 10,513	Rs 2,500
Bank of Maharashtra*	8.70 - 13.00	10,307 - 11,377	Nil
Indian Overseas Bank**	8.85 onwards	10,343 onwards	0.50% (Rs 500 - Rs 5,000)
ICICI Bank	9.10 onwards	10,403 onwards	Rs 999 - Rs 8,500
HDFC Bank	8.75 onwards	10,319 onwards	0.50% (Rs 3,500 - Rs 8,000)
Karnataka Bank	8.88 - 11.34	10,350 - 10,956	0.60% (Rs 3,000 - Rs 11,000)
Federal Bank	8.85 onwards	10,343 onwards	Rs 2,000 - Rs 4,500
South Indian Bank	8.75 onwards	10,319 onwards	1% (Max: Rs 10,000)
IDFC First Bank	9.00 - 13.50	10,379 - 11,505	Up to 3.5%
City Union Bank	14.35 - 14.85	11,725 - 11,586	1.25% (Min: Rs 1,000)

*0.25% interest rate concession for existing housing loan borrowers and corporate salary account holders.
**0.50% interest rate concession to borrowers with credit scores of 750 and above. Interest rate concession of 0.20% to borrowers for financing Electric 4 Wheelers. 0.20% concession to existing Housing Loan Borrowers.

Rates and charges as on January 10 **Source: Paisabazaar.com**

Grasping fund-based alpha

THINKINVESTOR

Retail investors can't make in-depth analysis. Hence, it is better third-party research providers offer performance analysis reports to retail investors for meaningful understanding of fund alphas

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

Performance evaluation of investment portfolios is a multi-step process. It first involves validating a portfolio's stated benchmark. The next step is attributing the source of alpha; alpha is the excess returns that an active portfolio generates over an appropriate benchmark. The final step involves analysing the alpha to decide on investing in the fund. Such a clinical approach is best left to investment-performance analysts. As an individual investor, it is important you understand why an appropriate benchmark is crucial and how research providers can bridge industry-best practices in performance evaluation with SEBI's categorisation of funds.

Similar risk, higher return

Suppose you want to invest in a large-cap active fund whose benchmark is the Nifty 50. The fund must typically generate positive alpha irrespective of the Nifty 50 Index rising or sliding. So, when the index tanks, the fund should provide lower negative returns.

Importantly, an active fund must generate positive alpha taking similar risk as its benchmark index. That is why best-practice evaluation requires analysts first test whether a fund is true to its benchmark index. But that argument may not work in India. Why? Large-cap active funds, for instance, can allocate 20% outside of the large-cap space as large-cap funds are defined as ones that invest at least 80% in large-cap stocks.

While this definition allows such funds to include mid-cap stocks in portfolios, it changes the nature and characteristic of alpha; for you will be comparing a portfolio with many large-cap stocks and some mid-cap stocks with a benchmark index with only large-cap stocks. Are blended benchmarks better in capturing the characteristic of alpha?

Conclusion

A blended benchmark for large cap funds can be created with 80% weight for a large-cap index and 20% weight for a mid-cap index. This assumes a large-cap fund will invest only in mid-cap stocks in addition to large-cap stocks. What if funds drift to small-cap stocks? Suffice it to know returns-based analysis may be more optimal here. Similar analysis can be done for mid- and small-cap active funds. As retail investors, we cannot build such benchmarks or make such analysis. It is better third-party research providers offer performance analysis reports to retail investors for understanding fund alphas.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

QUITO

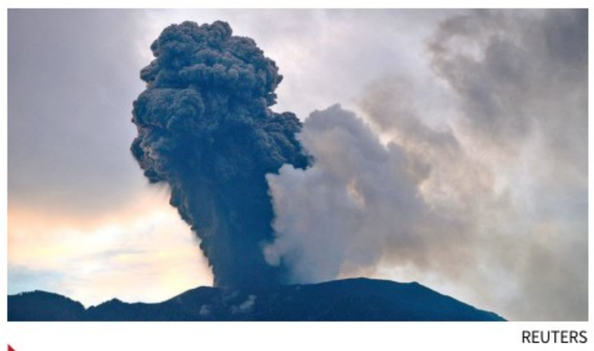
All remaining hostages seized in Ecuador prison riots freed

AFP

All remaining 136 prison staff who were seized as hostages during the prison riots in Ecuador were freed on Saturday night. Nearly 180 prison guards and civil servants had been taken hostage by rioting inmates after President Daniel Noboa launched a military crackdown on criminal groups this week. AFP

PADANG

Indonesia's Mount Marapi erupts, more than 150 people evacuated



REUTERS

Mount Marapi on the Indonesian island of Sumatra erupted again on Sunday morning, prompting more than 150 people to evacuate. Officials reported that the volcano first erupted at 6.21 a.m. local time, sending thick volcanic ash 1,300 metres above the crater and toward the southwest area of the peak. AFP

CALAIS

Five migrants die trying to cross Channel in freezing cold

AP

Five migrants died and a sixth was in a critical condition on Sunday after trying to reach Britain from northern France in freezing temperatures, the French maritime authority said. More than 30 people were rescued, the maritime prefecture said. The fatalities were the first reported migrant deaths on the Channel in 2024. AFP

MOSCOW

Russian dissident poet Rubinstein dies days after being hit by a car

AFP

Poet Lev Rubinstein, a key figure of the Soviet underground literary scene who later protested against Vladimir Putin, died days after being hit by a car, his daughter said. He is considered one of the founders of the Russian conceptualist movement that mocked the official doctrine of socialist realism in the 1970s-1980s. AFP

Had little say in choice of candidates for polls: Imran

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's jailed ex-Premier Imran Khan has said that his party candidates for the February 8 elections were picked with "little input" from him and he was largely unaware of ticket distribution.

Mr. Khan made these remarks on January 13 after attending court proceedings in the Toshakhana corruption case.

Before the court proceedings began, about two dozen PTI workers and candidates of different constituencies complained to 71-year-old Khan about being denied party tickets.

Mr. Khan also again accused his rival Nawaz Sharif of playing the match "with the umpires of choice".

Israel strikes south, central Gaza, as war enters 100th day

Communication, Internet services down in the besieged enclave for the third day running; almost 24,000 killed and 60,000 wounded since start of war; number or journalists killed crosses 100

Reuters
DOHA/GAZA

Israeli tanks and aircraft hit targets in southern and central Gaza on Sunday and there were fierce gun battles in some areas as the war reached 100 days since the October 7 attack led by gunmen from the Islamist Hamas movement.

Communications and Internet services were down for the third day running, complicating the work of ambulance crews trying to help people in areas hit by fighting.

Fighting was concentrated in the southern city of Khan Younis, where Hamas said its fighters hit an Israeli tank, as well as in Al-Bureij and Al Maghazi in central Gaza, where the military said several militants were killed.

Unending exodus: People walk past destroyed buildings in Rafah on the southern Gaza Strip on Sunday. AFP

The military also said its forces destroyed several rocket pits used by Hamas to fire missiles at Israel.

Over the past 24 hours, the Gaza Health Ministry said 125 people had been killed and 265 wounded, bringing the total number confirmed to have been killed since the start of the war to almost 24,000, with more than 60,000 wounded.

In the northern Gaza Strip, health officials said an Israeli air strike killed a local journalist, raising the number of journalists killed in the Israeli offensive to more than 100, according to the Gaza government media office.

Lebanon border

On Israel's northern border with Lebanon, where there has been a constant, low-level exchange of fire between troops and fighters from the Iran-backed Hezbollah militia, the military said it killed four armed militants trying to cross the border.

Taiwan tells China to 'face reality' after election results

Agence France-Presse
TAIPEI

Taiwan told China to "face reality" on Sunday after voters chose pro-sovereignty candidate Lai Ching-te as President, as Beijing issued a fresh warning that any new independence moves for the island would be "harshly punished".

Mr. Lai, of the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), had vowed to defend the island from China's "intimidation" and on Sunday Taipei's Foreign Ministry told Beijing to accept the result.

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi said the vote did not change Taiwan's status and warned against steps towards independence for the island, which Mr. Lai had said he opposed.

China warns against steps toward independence of Taiwan; U.S. team to visit self-ruled island

"If anyone on the island of Taiwan thinks of going for independence, they will be... trying to split China, and will certainly be harshly punished by both history and the law," Mr. Wang said at a press conference in Cairo.

An unofficial U.S. delegation sent by President Joe Biden's administration will arrive in Taipei on Sunday. The delegation, including a former U.S. National Security Adviser and a former Deputy Secretary of State, will meet "a range of leading political figures" on Monday.

83 countries hold Ukraine peace talks on eve of WEF

Agence France-Presse
DAVOS

More than 80 countries were holding talks seeking common ground on Ukraine's peace formula, as the Swiss co-hosts admitted that being ready to include Russia remains some way off. National security advisers from 83 countries held a fourth round of discussions based on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's 10-point proposals for a lasting and just peace in Ukraine.

"The purpose is to prepare so that we are ready to launch a process with Russia – when the time comes," Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis said.

The meeting was held in Davos in eastern Switzerland on the eve of the World Economic Forum.

N. Korea fires missile into sea, Foreign Minister to visit Russia

Reuters
SEOUL

North Korea fired an apparent intermediate-range missile into the sea on Sunday, South Korea and Japan said, as tensions run high after Pyongyang's recent launches of an intercontinental ballistic missile and its first military spy satellite.

Sunday's missile, launched from the area of Pyongyang around 2:55 p.m., flew about 1,000 km off the country's east coast, South Korea said.

The maximum altitude was at least 50 km (30 miles), and the missile appeared to fall outside Japan's exclusive economic zone, Japan's defence ministry said, criticising the launch as a violation of United Nations resolutions.

Pyongyang's isolated government is forging closer ties with Moscow. Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui will visit Russia from Monday to Wednesday at the invitation of her counterpart Sergei Lavrov.

Frederik X ascends the throne in Denmark

Agence France-Presse
COPENHAGEN

Denmark's King Frederik X acceded to the throne on Sunday, ushering in a new era after his mother Queen Margrethe abdicated, with more than 1,00,000 Danes turning out for the unprecedented event.

After a final horse-drawn carriage procession through the streets of Copenhagen, the hugely popular 83-year-old Queen signed a declaration of abdication at Christiansborg Palace, ending her 52-year reign and automatically making her son monarch.

She then left the Council of State, also attended by the government, the new king, his wife and their 18-year-old eldest son, the new Crown Prince Christian.

New era: Queen Margrethe signs a declaration of abdication as Frederik becomes King Frederik X of Denmark in Copenhagen. AFP

Margrethe left the room with tears in her eyes, saying: "God bless the king."

Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen then proclaimed 55-year-old Frederik the new king on the balcony of Christiansborg Palace, the seat of parliament and government.

Like his mother, Frederik is hugely popular, enjoying the support of more than 80% of Danes.

"My hope is to become a unifying king for the future... It's a responsibility I assume with respect, pride and a lot of happiness," he said.

Mary is the first commoner to become queen in Denmark.

The crowd erupted in loud cheers as the new king and queen kissed on the balcony.

It is only the second time a Danish sovereign has stepped down -- the last one was Erik III, almost nine centuries ago in 1146.

U.S. climate envoy Kerry steps down to help Biden campaign

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. climate envoy John Kerry, a key player in the Biden administration's push to tackle climate change, will step down to work on the President's re-election bid, media reported Saturday.

The former Secretary of State and senator has spent the last three years liaising with other countries to up commitments on climate change, including at the most recent COP-28 UN climate summit in Dubai.

Mr. Kerry, 80, intends to help Joe Biden's campaign by publicising the President's work in combatting global warming.

Mr. Kerry informed Mr. Biden of his intentions to leave on Wednesday, and his staff learned of the decision on Saturday, those officials said.

Apart from leading the U.S. delegation at three UN climate summits, Kerry worked effectively with China despite complicated diplomatic relations.

Sport

Satwik-Chirag duo finishes second best

MALAYSIA OPEN

Press Trust of India
KUALA LUMPUR

India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty faltered at the finishing line at the Malaysia Open Super 1000 with a narrow 21-9, 18-21, 17-21 loss in the men's doubles final against China's Liang Wei keng and Wang Chang here on Sunday.

Other final results: Men: Antonsen (Den) bt Shi (Chn) 21-14, 21-13. **Women:** An (Kor) bt Tzu-ying (Tpe) 10-21, 21-10, 21-18. **Doubles:** Liu & Tan (Chn) bt Zhang & Zheng (Chn) 21-18, 21-18. **Mixed doubles:** Watanabe & Higashino (Jpn) bt Won-ho & Na-eun (Kor) 21-18, 21-15.

Carlsen's withdrawal official, focus on India

P.K. Ajith Kumar

It was widely expected all along, but it has now become official – Magnus Carlsen will not play the Candidates tournament in April. The event that will determine who takes on the World chess champion Ding Liren is not going to feature the World No. 1 and five-time World champion from Norway.

Carlsen has officially withdrawn from the tournament to be held in Toronto through a letter to the world chess governing body FIDE. His place has gone to Nijat Abasov of Azerbaijan. The top three from the World Cup would have qualified, and Abasov had finished fourth, behind Carlsen, India's R. Praggnanandhaa and American Fabiano Caruana. India will be represented by two more players – Vidit Gujrathi and D. Gukesh.

Battle of the minds: The participants of the Candidates tournament. FIDE

Malaala should make amends in the first division of the Kodangal Plate

RACING

HYDERABAD: The six-year-old Malaala, who ran second in her last start, should make amends in the first division of the Kodangal Plate, the main event of Tuesday's (Jan. 16) races.

1 PALAIR RESERVOIR PLATE (1,400m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 1.15 p.m.: 1. La Mirage (6) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 60, 2. Wallop And Gallop (5) P. Ajeeth Kumar 59, 3. Decoy (4) B.R. Kumar 56, 4. Sangreal (2) P. Sai Kumar 56, 5. First Class (8) Vivek G 55.5, 6. Rising Tycoon (7) Mohit Singh 55.5, 7. Clare (1) A.A. Vikrant and 8. Colt Pistol (3) Surya Prakash 54.

1. FIRST CLASS, 2. SANGREAL, 3. DECOY

2 HUZURNAGAR PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200m) 6-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 1.45: 1. Stunning Force (2) Mohit Singh 60, 2. Mireya (4) Vivek G 59, 3. Red Snaper (5) Afroz Khan 58.5, 4. D Yes Boss (3) Ashad Asbar 56, 5. Pinatubo (6) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 54, 6. Sopranos (1) Kaviraj 53.5, 7. Cabello (--) and 8. Rising Queen (7) Md. Ismail 52.

1. D YES BOSS, 2. MIREYA, 3. PINATUBO

3 HUZURNAGAR PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200m), 6-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 2.15: 1. Mark My Day (3) R.S. Jodha 60, 2. Angelita (8) Ajay Kumar 59.5, 3. Tripurari (2) Vivek G 59.5, 4. Garnet (7) A.A. Vikrant 56, 5. Doe A Deer (6) Afroz Khan 54.5, 6. Thunderstruck (4) Ashad Asbar 54, 7. Salisbury (5) Mohit Singh 53.5 and 8. Top In Class (1) Surya Prakash 52.

1. TRIPURARI, 2. GARNET, 3. ANGELITA

4 KODANGAL PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200m), rated 80 and above (Cat. I), 2.45: 1. Black Onyx (6) Vivek G 61, 2. Beauty Blaze (2) N.B. Kuldeep 59, 3. City Of Bliss (3) Ajay Kumar 57, 4. Nugget (4) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 54, 5. Blissful (7) Nakhat Singh 50.5, 6. Miss Little Angel (1) P. Sai Kumar 50.5, 7. Bangor On Dee (8) Afroz Khan 50, 8. Laurus (9) Kaviraj 50 and 9. Morior Invictus (5) Surya Prakash 50.

1. MISS LITTLE ANGEL, 2. BEAUTY BLAZE, 3. CITY OF BLISS

5 MANTHANI PLATE (1,100m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.15: 1. Minecraft (3) Ashad Asbar 60, 2. Shadow Fax (1) Ajay Kumar 58.5, 3. Ambitious Star (7) Md. Ekram Alam 58, 4. Sweet Dancer (6) A.A. Vikrant 57.5, 5. Dali's Champion (5) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 54, 6. Stoli (4) Afroz Khan 53.5, 7. Black Power (2) G. Naresh 52.5 and 8. Planet Super (8) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 52.5.

1. SHADOW FAX, 2. MINECRAFT, 3. DALI'S CHAMPION

6 MADHIRA PLATE (1,200m), Maiden 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.45: 1. Thunder Knight (9) P. Sai Kumar 60, 2. Assured Success (8) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 57, 3. Bold Beauty (10) N.B. Kuldeep 56, 4. Pancho (3) Kaviraj 55, 5. That's My Pathan (7) Md. Ismail 54, 6. Noble Heart (5) Ajay Kumar 53, 7. Diamond Rain (2) Vivek G 52.5, 8. Five Star (4) G. Naresh 52.5, 9. Canterbury (1) Md. Ekram Alam 52 and 10. Eminency (6) Nakhat Singh 52.

1. DIAMOND RAIN, 2. BOLD BEAUTY, 3. CANTERBURY

7 KODANGAL PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200m), rated 80 and above (Cat. I), 4.15: 1. Malaala (6) Ajay Kumar 62, 2. Ashoka (9) Vivek G 59, 3. Kingston (7) R.S. Jodha 58, 4. Commanding Knight (3) P. Sai Kumar 55.5, 5. Best Buddy (2) Md. Ekram Alam 50.5, 6. Briar Ridge (5) Santosh Raj 60.5, 7. Faith (4) Kaviraj 50, 8. Kenaf (8) Afroz Khan 50 and 9. Amyra (1) Surya Prakash 50.

1. MALAALA, 2. ASHOKA, 3. BEST BUDDY

8 ANDOLE PLATE (1,100m), rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 4.45: 1. Bien Pensant (6) Surya Prakash 61.5, 2. Chenab (11) G. Naresh 61.5, 3. Lights On (2) R.S. Jodha 61.5, 4. My Master (13) Md. Ekram Alam 61.5, 5. 5. Reining Queen (9) P. Ajeeth Kumar 61.5, 6. Soorya Vahan (5) Md. Ismail 61.5, 7. Exeter (12) Ashad Asbar 60.5, 8. Sea Of Class (7) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 60.5, 9. Riffa (10) Mukesh Kumar 60, 10. That's My Way (1) Afroz Khan 60, 11. Ikra (8) N.B. Kuldeep 55.5, 12. The Platinum Queen (3) Kiran Naidu 55 and 13. Blue Brigade (4) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 50.

1. LIGHTS ON, 2. BIEN PENSANT, 3. MY MASTER

Day's Best: **MALAALA**
Jackpot: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8.
Mini Jackpot: (i) 2, 3, 4 & 5. (ii) 5, 6, 7 & 8.
Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 3, 4 & 5, (iii) 6, 7 & 8.
Tanala: All races.

REWARDING TIME

I get to learn a lot batting with Virat *bhaiya*, says Jaiswal

R.V. MOORTHY

Yashasvi Jaiswal forged a 57-run stand for the second wicket with Virat Kohli en route to India's six-wicket win against Afghanistan. "It was really nice to be there. Whenever I bat with Virat *bhaiya*, I get to learn a lot. Today also, we had small chats on where we could hit," Jaiswal said.

IN FORM

Allen and Milne fire New Zealand to 2-0 lead against Pakistan

AFP

Opener Finn Allen scored 74 and pace bowler Adam Milne claimed four wickets as New Zealand beat Pakistan by 21 runs in the second T20I on Sunday to take a 2-0 series lead.
The scores: New Zealand 194/8 in 20 overs (Allen 74, Rauf 3/38) beat Pakistan 173 in 19.3 overs (Babar 66, Fakhar 50, Milne 4/33).

TRIUMPHANT OUTING

Wehrlein wins Mexico E-Prix, debutant Jehan finishes 16th

GETTY IMAGES

Indian racer Jehan Daruvala endured a disappointing Formula E debut as he finished 16th at the Mexican E-Prix in Mexico City. TAG Heuer Porsche's Pascal Wehrlein converted his pole to victory as he picked up his second win in Mexico with a well-managed drive at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez circuit.

POWERFUL PERFORMANCE

Steelers take down Thalaivas; Pirates rally to tie with Dabang

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Haryana Steelers put up a stunning performance to defeat Tamil Thalaivas 36-31 in the Pro Kabaddi League Season 10 in Jaipur on Sunday. In the second match, a brilliant comeback in the final minutes of the game helped Patna Pirates secure a high octane 39-39 tie against Dabang Delhi.

Axar, Arshdeep, Jaiswal and Dube on the ball as India seals series

The left-arm spinner and medium-pacer share five wickets between them before the batters' dashing fifties take team home

AFGHANISTAN IN INDIA

Shayan Acharya
INDORE

A packed Holkar Stadium waited patiently for fireworks from Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, but on Sunday evening, Yashasvi Jaiswal (68, 34b, 5x4, 6x6) and Shivam Dube (63 n.o., 32b, 5x4, 4x6) again lived up to their names and guided India to a convincing six-wicket win against Afghanistan in the second T20I.

After missing the series opener due to a sore groin, Jaiswal replaced Shubman Gill in the final eleven and justified his selection with two crucial partnerships with Kohli (57 for the second wicket) and Shivam Dube (92 for the third wicket) to help India take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Jaiswal and Dube made a tricky chase look easy. Making most of an early reprieve, Jaiswal spared none of the Afghanistan bowlers, and after captain Rohit fell for yet another duck, the Mumbai-based batter partnered Kohli who returned to India's T20I fold after 430 days, to launch a fightback.

As the crowd chanted his name, Kohli started off with a lofted drive, followed by a slog sweep. En route to his 16-ball-29, Kohli continued his on-field rivalry with Naveen-ul-Haq with a couple of boundaries before the latter cut short his innings. Kohli did not get the elevation off a Naveen's full delivery and failed to clear the mid-off and walked back.

Casting a spell: Axar's fine bowling derailed the Afghan innings in the middle phase. R.V. MOORTHY

Coming on the back of a match-winning knock in the previous game, Dube took things in his stride and together with Jaiswal guided India to 69 for two in the PowerPlay. After taking seven deliveries to settle in, Dube got into the rhythm and hammered three huge sixes in the 10th over by Mohammad Nabi. By the time Karim Janat removed Jaiswal and followed it up with a cheap dismissal of Jitesh Sharma, India was quite close to the target, and Dube sealed the deal.

Afghanistan, however, would be disappointed with its bowlers as they failed to put up a fight despite the team scoring its highest T20I score against India. Inserted to bat, it was an innings of ebbs and flows for Afghanistan. Rahmanullah Gurbaz started aggressively before Ravi Bishnoi earned the breakthrough. However, No. 3 Gulbadin Naib took charge with a powerful innings of 57, which included five fours and four sixes, but once Axar Patel (2/17) got him out, the middle-order struggled to get going.

Arshdeep Singh proved his death overs credentials by claiming three wickets for 32 after going wicketless in the first spell.

Afghanistan head coach Jonathan Trott said that the touring team was "probably 20 to 30 runs short" and added, "The wicket kept a bit lower than we expected and we lost a wicket or two for that, and had to adjust."

SCOREBOARD

AFGHANISTAN
Rahmanullah Gurbaz c Dube b Bishnoi 14 *(9b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Ibrahim Zadran b Axar 8 *(10b, 1x4)*, Gulbadin Naib c Rohit b Axar 57 *(35b, 5x4, 4x6)*, Azmatullah Omarzai b Dube 2 *(5b)*, Mohammad Nabi c Rinku b Bishnoi 14 *(18b, 1x4)*, Najibullah Zadran b Arshdeep 23 *(21b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Karim Janat c Axar b Arshdeep 20 *(10b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Mujeeb Ur Rahman run out 21 *(9b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Noor Ahmad c Kohli b Arshdeep 1 *(2b)*, Naveen-ul-Haq (not out) 1 *(1b)*, Fazalhaq Farooqi run out 0 *(0b)*; Extras (lb-4, w-7): 11; Total (in 20 overs): 172.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-20 (Gurbaz, 2.2 overs), 2-53 (Ibrahim, 5.4), 3-60 (Omarzai, 6.5), 4-91 (Naib, 11.3), 5-104 (Nabi, 14.2), 6-134 (Najibullah, 17.1), 7-164 (Janat, 19.1), 8-170 (Noor, 19.5), 9-171 (Mujeeb, 19.5).

INDIA BOWLING
Arshdeep 4-0-32-3, Mukesh 2-0-21-0, Bishnoi 4-0-39-2, Axar 4-0-17-2, Dube 3-0-36-1, Washington 3-0-23-0.

INDIA
Yashasvi Jaiswal c Gurbaz b Janat 68 *(34b, 5x4, 6x6)*, Rohit Sharma b Farooqi 0 *(1b)*, Virat Kohli c Ibrahim b Naveen 29 *(16b, 5x4)*, Shivam Dube (not out) 63 *(32b, 5x4, 4x6)*, Jitesh Sharma c Nabi b Janat 0 *(2b)*, Rinku Singh (not out) 9 *(9b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-2, w-2): 4; Total (for four wkts. in 15.4 overs): 173.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-5 (Rohit, 0.5), 2-62 (Kohli, 5.3), 3-154 (Jaiswal, 12.3), 4-156 (Jitesh, 12.6).

AFGHANISTAN BOWLING
Farooqi 3.4-0-28-1, Mujeeb 2-0-32-0, Naveen 3-0-33-1, Noor 3-0-35-0, Nabi 2-0-30-0, Janat 2-0-13-2.

Toss: India. **PoM:** Axar.
India won six wickets with 26 balls remaining to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.
Third and final T20I: Jan. 17, Bengaluru, 7 p.m.

India overcomes NZ, stays in the race for ticket to Paris

Racing ahead: Deepika charges past the Kiwi defenders with the ball in the Olympic qualifiers. PTI

Uthra Ganesan
RANCHI

A goal-filled first quarter and barren next three may not be the best indicator of the battle on field but the 3-1 win for India against New Zealand for its first win kept the host in the competition and the race to a Paris ticket here on Sunday.

A different India team turning up, stepping on the pedal from the start to go ahead 40 seconds into the match and keeping the pressure on all through. Salima Tete running away with the ball and putting fellow Jharkhandi Sangita Kumari through for the lead before the opponent - or the crowd - could even settle down.

India did concede a couple of penalty corners, the second one resulting in an equaliser for New Zealand in the seventh minute but birthday girl Udita's powerful whack off India's 4th PC had no answer and two minutes later, Beauty Dung Dung deflected Jyoti's brilliant pass to make it 3-1.

That no goals were scored thereafter was a lot due to a desperate New Zealand trying to minimise the damage.

They did try to move up and find goals through counter-attacks but India's defence was unshakeable. It was a visibly different team from the lethargic, erratic, clueless one that was on display against USA.

Beauty was permanently parked upfront inside the circle, Monika pushed back to take turns with Nikki as deep defender, Udita played attacking defender on the right, Baljeet was pushed further up and Salima and Sangita were seemingly given to do their thing and not worry about the outcome. Lalremsiami and Neha, meanwhile continued their form, creating PCs and finding gaps. Savita was back in form, bringing off a couple of good saves to deny NZ. The team seemed to have realised their strengths overnight.

India had several more chances to increase the margin and even one more would have helped the team rise in standings.

As it was, the result did not change Pool-B with India third on the basis of goals scored despite being tied on points and goal difference. It will all now come down to the result in Tuesday's final pool matches - a win for table-topper USA against New Zealand will mean India can sneak through to the semifinals even with a draw against Italy.

The results: **Pool-A**: Chile 6 (Manuela Urroz 2, Consuelo de las Heras, Maria Maldonado, Camila Caram, Antonia Morales Orchard) bt Czech Republic 0; Germany 1 (Lisa Nolte) drew with Japan 1 (Miyu Hasegawa); **Pool-B**: USA 2 (Ashley Sessa, Ashley Hoffman) bt Italy 0; India 3 (Sangita Kumari, Udita, Beauty Dung Dung) bt New Zealand 1 (Meghan Hull).

De Bruyne inspires City to a comeback win at Newcastle

Agencies
NEWCASTLE

Manchester City's Kevin de Bruyne sparked a late comeback 3-2 victory for his side at Newcastle United on Saturday in his first Premier League action since the opening day of the season.

The Belgian midfielder came off the bench in the 69th minute with City trailing 1-2 and equalised with a clinical low finish. He then played the perfect pass in stoppage time for Oscar Bobb to secure the three points that moved champions City into second place. Bernardo Silva had given City a 26th-minute lead but Pep Guardiola's side was soon rocked back on its heels. Alexander Isak curled in an equaliser in the 35th minute and Anthony Gordon sent the home fans wild with an almost identical finish two minutes later.

Inevitable: De Bruyne made his return extra special with a goal and an assist. AFP

Important results: Premier League: Newcastle 2 (Isak 35, Gordon 37) lost to Manchester City 3 (Silva 26, De Bruyne 74, Bobb 90+1); Everton 0 drew with Aston Villa 0; Manchester United 2 (Hojlund 3, Rashford 40) drew with Tottenham 2 (Richarlison 19, Bentancur 46). **Serie A:** Monza 1 (Pessina 69-pen) lost to Inter Milan 5 (Calhanoglu 12-pen, 60, Martinez 14, 84-pen, Thuram 88); Verona 2 (Djuric 3, Ngonge 56) bt Empoli 1 (Zurkowski 64); Lazio 1 (Anderson 58) bt Leccee 0; Cagliari 2 (Petagna 31, Calafiori 69-og) bt Bologna 1 (Orsolini 24). **LaLiga:** Athletic Bilbao 2 (Berenguer 30, 42) bt Real Sociedad 1 (Oyarzabal 88); Real Betis 1 (Isco 76) bt Granada 0; Almeria 0 drew with Girona 0.

Under-par Djokovic takes first step towards history; Sabalenka cruises

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

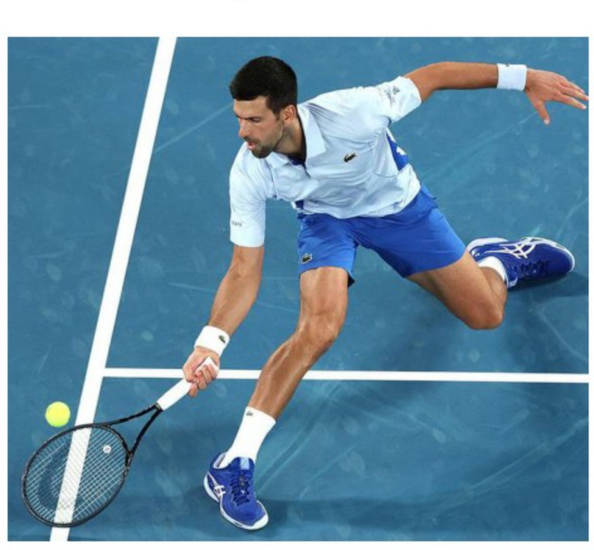
Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

Novak Djokovic survived a fierce test against teenager Dino Prizmic at the Australian Open Sunday as he launched his bid for a historic 25th Grand Slam, but defending women's champion Aryna Sabalenka destroyed her opponent 6-0, 6-1.

World No.1 Djokovic, gunning for an 11th Australian Open title to pull clear of Margaret Court on the all-time list of Majors, won 6-2, 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 6-4.

The 36-year-old Serbian, now boasting a 29-match winning run in Melbourne, was expected to breeze through against Croatia's Prizmic, who is half his age.

But after coasting to the first set he was given a searching examination by the youngster, who levelled the match in a tie-break.



Tough opener: Defending champion Djokovic was tested by teenager Prizmic. AFP

Seizing control

The Croatian qualifier threatened to pull away in the third set but the veteran rallied from 3-2 down, reeling off the next eight games to seize control and he was able to snuff out another late fightback.

Women's second seed Sabalenka took to the court after 11:30 p.m., determined to wrap things up quickly and she demolished German qualifier Ella Seidel.

The Belarusian World No. 2 raced through the first set 6-0 in just 22 minutes.

She was denied a rare "double-bagel" but made no mistake on her own serve to seal victory in 53 minutes.

Men's fifth seed Andrey Rublev was earlier given an almighty scare by Brazil's Thiago Seyboth Wild, while former women's champion Caroline Wozniacki progressed when Polish 20th seed Magda Linette retired injured when trailing 6-2, 2-0.

Wozniacki, who won the title in Melbourne in 2018, came out of retirement last year following the birth of two children.

Sinner wins

Men's fourth seed Jannik Sinner overcame Botic van de Zandschulp 6-4, 7-5, 6-3 while there were wins for the seeded U.S. pair Taylor Fritz and Frances Tiafoe.

It was tougher for former French Open champion and ninth seed Barbora Krejcikova, who came from behind to see off Japanese wildcard Mai Hontama 2-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Injured former top-10 star Matteo Berrettini pulled out of the tournament on the eve of a blockbuster first-round clash with Tsitsipas, who will now face Belgian lucky loser Zizou Bergs.

IMPORTANT RESULTS

First round: Men: Sinner (Ita) bt van de Zandschulp (Ned) 6-4, 7-5, 6-3; Marozsan (Hun) bt Cilic (Cro) 6-1, 2-6, 6-2, 7-5; 22-Cerundolo (Arg) bt Sweeny (Aus) 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 2-6, 6-2; 26-Baez (Arg) bt Wolf (USA) 3-6, 6-2, 6-3, 3-0, retd.; 5-Rublev bt Seyboth Wild (Brta) 7-5, 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 7-6 (6); 12-Fritz (USA) bt Acosta (Arg) 4-6, 6-3, 3-6, 6-2, 6-4; 1-Djokovic (Srb) bt Prizmic (Cro) 6-2, 6-7(5), 6-3, 6-4; 17-Tiafoe (USA) bt Coric (Cro) 6-3, 7-6(7), 2-6, 6-3.
Women: 32-Fernandez (Can) bt Bejlek (Cze) 7-6(5), 6-2; 28-Tsurenko (Ukr) bt Bronzetti (Ita) 3-6, 7-5, 6-3; 9-Krejcikova (Cze) bt Hontama (Jpn) 2-6, 6-4, 6-3; 8-Sakkari (Gre) bt Hibino (Jpn) 6-4, 6-1; Anisimova (USA) bt 13-Samsonova 6-3, 6-4; Wozniacki (Den) bt 20-Linette (Pol) 6-2, 2-0 retd.; 2-Sabalenka (Blr) bt Seidel (Ger) 6-0, 6-1.

RANJI TROPHY SCORES – ROUND 2, DAY 3

Elite: Group-A: At Rajkot: Saurashtra 145 & 220 in 78.3 overs (Cheteshwar Pujara 43, Arpit Vasavada 45, Parth Bhut 47, Nishant Sindhu 5/83) lost to Haryana 200 & 168/6 in 59.1 overs (Vedant Bhardwaj 45, Ashok Menaria 58 n.o., Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 4/58). **Points: Haryana 6(7), Saurashtra 0(3)**.
At Pune: Jharkhand 403 vs Maharashtra 543/4 in 132 overs (Pavan Shah 136, Naushad Shaikh 73, Kedar Jadhav 182, Ankit Bawne 114 batting).
At Delhi: Services 466/4 decl. in 161.2 overs (Nitin Tanwar 61, Ravi Chauhan 107, Anshul Gupta 149, Rajat Paliwal 108 n.o.) vs Rajasthan 131/9 in 59 overs.
Group-B: At Mumbai: Mumbai 395 vs Andhra 184 in 72 overs (Prasanth Kumar 73, Shams Mulani 6/65) & 164/5 in 51 overs (Hanuma Vihari 46, Shaik Rasheed 52 batting).
At Patna: Bihar 108 & 144/3 in 40 overs (Sharman Nigrodh 60, Babul Kumar 52) vs Chhattisgarh 329/2 decl. in 83 overs (Rishabh Tiwari 138, Ashutosh Singh 134 n.o.).
At Kanpur: Uttar Pradesh 60 & 178/4 in 52 overs (Samarth Singh 54, Aryan Juyal 42, Nitish Rana 47 batting) vs Bengal 188.
At Guwahati: Kerala 419 vs Assam 231/7 in 62 overs (Riyan Parag 116, Basil Thampi 4/69).
Group-C: At Mullanpur: Railways 345 in 104.1 overs (Pratham Singh 60, Mohammad Saif 50, Upendra Yadav 58, Sahab Yuvraj Singh 70, Siddarth Kaul 4/81) vs Punjab 93/6 in 29 overs (Himanshu Sangwan 4/24).
At Agartala: Tamil Nadu 122/2 in 41 overs (B. Indrajith 47 batting, Vijay Shankar 50 batting) vs Tripura. (**No play due to bad light**).
At Porvorim: Goa 618/7 decl. vs Chandigarh 348/5 in 108 overs (Arslan Khan 84, Kunal Mahajan 109 batting, Raj Bawa 64 batting).
At Ahmedabad: Gujarat 264 & 171/7 in 68 overs (Manan Hingrajia 56) vs Karnataka 374 in 106.2 overs (R. Samarth 60, Mayank Agarwal 109, Devdutt Padikkal 42, Manish Pandey 88).
Group-D: At Indore: Odisha 498 in 170.2 overs (S. Senapati 277, Rajesh Dhuper 51, Harshit Rathod 60 n.o.) vs Madhya Pradesh 246/6 in 80.3 overs (Harsh Gawli 137 batting, Saransh Jain 40).
At Dharamsala: Uttarakhand 238 & 227 in 71.5 overs (Aditya Tare 79, Abhishek Kumar 5/43) vs. Himachal Pradesh 271 & 39/6 in 12.1 overs (Deepak Dhapola 5/16).
At Vadodara: Baroda 218 & 154 in 48.5 overs (Sagar Udeshi 6/70) bt Puducherry 155 & 119 in 35.1 overs (Bhargav Bhatt 6/46, Mahesh Pithiya 4/49). **Baroda 6(12), Puducherry 0(6)**.
At Jammu: Delhi 3/0 in 3 overs vs J&K.
Plate: At Anand: Sikkim 544/7 decl. bt Arunachal Pradesh 98 & 158 in 41.5 overs (Techi Doria 60, Palzor Tamang 5/42). **Sikkim 7(13), Arunachal 0(0)**.
At Nadiad: Nagaland 211 & 347/4 in 108 overs (Joshua Ozukum 70, Sedezhalie Rupero 143 batting, R.S. Jaganath Sinivas 86) vs Mizoram 356.

TV PICKS

Ranji Trophy: Jio Cinema App, 9.30 a.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m. onwards
Australian Open: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5.30 a.m. onwards (Tuesday)

TUESDAY

Badminton: India Open, Jio Cinema App, 9 a.m. onwards
Hockey: Women's Olympic Qualifiers. Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 12, 2.30 & 5.30 p.m.
Australian Open: (Afternoon session), Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1.30 p.m. onwards
Sri Lanka vs Zimbabwe: 2nd T20I, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 7 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m.
Australia vs West Indies: 1st Test, day 1, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 5 a.m. (Wednesday)
Australian Open: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5.30 a.m. onwards (Wednesday)

Karnataka has Gujarat in a corner

Koushik and Rohit strike to reduce the home side to 171 for seven in its second knock, after it trailed in the first innings by 61 runs

RANJI TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
AHMEDABAD

Karnataka pushed Gujarat onto the back foot on the penultimate day of their Ranji Trophy match here on Sunday. Gujarat sits on a 61-run overall lead with only three wickets in hand, and will need an extraordinary performance to deny Karnataka a victory.

After taking a healthy 110-run first-innings advantage, Karnataka kept the pressure on to reduce Gujarat to 171 for seven. Pacer V. Koushik was once again on the money, keeping a strict wicket-to-wicket line to claim three wickets.

Left-arm spinner Rohit Kumar entered the mix with two wickets off successive deliveries late in the day. The first came through a brain fade from the settled Manan Hingrajia (56, 135b, 5x4), who tried to sweep a delivery from well outside off stump. Ripal Patel prodded forward and gave Manish Pandey a catch at slip.

Gaja survives

Rohit could have had another scalp later in the over when captain Chintan Gaja completely mishit a slog. Cover fielder Nikin Jose, looking over his shoulder as he skipped sideways towards mid-off, put down the skier.

Gaja (8 batting) received another life when Devdutt Padikkal and Jose, at first and second slip respectively, stood frozen as the ball flew between them. It was the last over of the day, bowled by second spinner Shubhang Hegde.

Gujarat fumed at receiving two questionable decisions from the umpires. Het Patel was declared leg-before off Koushik, when the ball had struck him high on the top of the thigh pad.

Kshitij Patel, who made 95 in the first essay, stared in disbelief at the umpire's response to a caught-behind appeal.

In the morning session, Karnataka could only add 46 runs to its overnight total. Manish Pandey (88, 156b, 8x4, 2x6) perished looking for the big hits when in the company of the tail.

Prasidh Krishna, who suffered an injury on the first day, did not take the field on Sunday.

Hit-man: Karnataka pacer Koushik celebrates with teammates one of his three dismissals in Gujarat's second essay. VIJAY SONEJI

The scores:
Gujarat — 1st innings: 264.
Karnataka — 1st innings: R. Samarth b Desai 60, Mayank Agarwal c Het b Gaja 109, Devdutt Padikkal b Vaghela 42, Nikin Jose run out 22, Manish Pandey c Kshitij b Vaghela 88, Shubhang Hegde lbw b Gaja 11, Sujay Sateri lbw b Nagwaswalla 31, V. Vyshak c Het b Gaja 0, Rohit Kumar c Hingrajia b Desai 5, V. Koushik (not out) 0, Prasidh Krishna (absent hurt) 0; Extras (lb-3, w-1, nb-2): 6; Total (in 106.2 overs): 374.

Fall of wickets: 1-172, 2-172, 3-237, 4-238, 5-298, 6-348, 7-349, 8-370, 9-374.

Gujarat bowling: Gaja 23-3-65-3, Nagwaswalla 20-3-75-1, Desai 33-6-113-2, Ripal 3-0-13-0, Vaghela 25.2-4-95-2, Hingrajia 2-0-10-0.

Gujarat — 2nd innings: Priyank Panchal c Sateri b Koushik 4, Sunpreet Bagga c Padikkal b Hegde 27, Siddharth Desai b Vyshak 0, Het Patel lbw b Koushik 6, Manan Hingrajia c Padikkal b Rohit 56, Kshitij Patel c Sateri b Koushik 26, Umang Kumar (batting) 29, Ripal Patel c Pandey b Rohit 0, Chintan Gaja (batting) 8; Extras (b-9, lb-1, w-1, nb-4): 15; Total (for seven wkts. in 68 overs): 171.

Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-12, 3-21, 4-52, 5-109, 6-145, 7-145.

Karnataka bowling: Koushik 14-10-11-3, Vyshak 14-2-27-1, Shubhang 23-4-70-1, Rohit 13-2-42-2, Jose 1-0-5-0, Mayank 2-1-4-0, Padikkal 1-0-2-0.

Vidit holds Ding Liren

Sports Bureau
WIJK AAN ZEE (AMSTERDAM)

Vidit Gujrathi proved equal to World champion Ding Liren to make a confident start to his campaign in the elite Tata Steel Masters chess by splitting points here on Sunday.

Important results: (first round): **Masters**: Vidit Gujrathi drew with Ding Liren (Chn); R. Praggnanandhaa drew with Parham Maghsoodloo (Iri); D. Gukesh drew with Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb); Max Warmerdam (Ned) lost to Ian Nepomniachtchi (FIDE).

Challengers: Marc Andria Maurizzi (Ned) drew with D. Harika; Divya Deshmukh drew with Stefan Beukema (Bel); Hans Moke Niemann (USA) bt Liam Vrolijk (Ned); Saleh Salem (UAE) bt Anton Korobov (Uzb); Daniel Dardha (Bel) drew with Erwin L'Ámi (Ned).

Lakshay, Shreyasi in contention

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau

Lakshay Sheoran shot 71, following rounds of 23, 23 and 25 in men's trap, in the Asian shotgun championship in Kuwait on Sunday.

There were two shooters on 73, six on 72 and four others on 71 with Lakshay, revealing the intensity of competition for the two Olympic quota places on offer. The Indian aspirations took a jolt as the former World Champion Manavjit Singh Sandhu was disqualified for his equipment not measuring up to acceptable standard.

The acting president of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo said that a protest had been lodged with the organisers, and the matter would be further taken up with the international federation. "We feel that the treatment meted out to Manavjit Singh Sandhu is entirely unjustified. He has shot with the same stock in the Rio Olympics and several World Cups after that without any issues. "The coaches had lodged a protest yesterday itself. A second appeal was lodged with the chief jury after he was disqualified today. It was rejected."

The results: **25m standard pistol**: **Men**: 1. Yogesh Singh 572 (17x); 2. Davaakhuu Enkhtaivan (Mgl) 572 (7x); 3. Nikita Chiryukin (Kaz) 568; 6. Amit Kumar 565; 12. Om Prakash 553; **Team**: 1. India 1690, 2. Vietnam 1679; 3. Indonesia 1666.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Akash wins two bronze medals

Karnataka's K.J. Aakash bagged two bronze medals, in U-19 singles and doubles, at the UTT 85th Inter-State Youth and Junior National Table Tennis Championship in Kolkata.

In singles semifinal, Aakash lost to Bodhisatwa Chaudhury 3-4, while in doubles, he and Rohith Shankar were defeated by Ankur Bhattacharjee and Bodhisatwa 3-0.

Hindustan FC crowned KSHA-BHA A-division champion

Hindustan Friends Club drew with Bombers HC 3-3 in its final match to emerge the KSHA - BHA A-division champion here on Saturday.
Rising Star HC 'A' beat DPS, East 4-2 to finish joint-top with Hindustan on six points, but it had an inferior goal difference of one to Hindustan's three.

Jain varsity gets the better of Rajasthan

Jain defeated Rajasthan 71-48 to win the All India University basketball tournament in Jaipur.

Thumping win for The Sports School

The Sports School blanked Diablos 5-0 in the TAL Season 12 Conference B match here on Sunday.
Other results:
Rebels Development drew with Technico FF 1-1; Snipers FC bt Gladiators FC 3-0.

Mohun Bagan overturns Hyderabad

SUPER CUP

Sports Bureau
BHUBANESWAR

Dimitrios Petratos scored a penalty in injury-time to help Mohun Bagan Super Giant beat 10-man Hyderabad FC 2-1 and pick up its second consecutive in group-A league of Kalinga Super Cup at the Kalinga Stadium on Sunday.

The results: East Bengal 2 (Maher 12, Siverio 31) bt Sreenidi Deccan FC 1 (William 90+1-pen); Mohun Bagan Super Giant 2 (Jeremy Zohminghlua 88-og, Dimitrios Petratos 90+2-pen) bt Hyderabad FC 1 (Ramhlunchhunga 6).

Fill your festive season with happiness. Book your favorite Kia today to avail unbeatable benefits and celebratory offers that fill the whole year with inspiration.

Exclusive ownership benefits for the Carens* up to ₹ 71 300
Extended Warranty up to ₹20 000 | Special Benefits up to ₹41 300 | Exchange Benefits up to ₹10 000

Exclusive ownership benefits for the Seltos* up to ₹ 1 10 000
Extended Warranty up to ₹40 000 | Special Benefits up to ₹35 000 | Exchange Benefits up to ₹25 000 | Accessories up to ₹10 000

Enjoy unbeatable exchange & finance benefits

New car with old EMI# packaged exchange deal on new car
Car evaluation at your convenience
Complimentary evaluation of your old car with assured gift
Best price for your old car
Complete assurance of your car going into the right hands
Zero down payment* Nil processing/ prepayment charges

Additional benefits for select corporates. Kia cars are now available through Canteen Stores Department (CSD).

For more information, visit our dealership or contact: 1800 108 5000 | www.kia.com/in | Book Kia | 093195 91407 | kiacare@kiaindia.net | Look for "Kia India" @

*Terms & condition apply. Offers are at the sole discretion of the dealership applicable on selected models and selected 2023 Models only. #Depending on the old car age & quality, old car price to be considered as down payment. Balance will be converted into EMI for full tenure, combined with finance & insurance benefits. ^With select partners banks only. The product shown is for representation purposes only. Actual features, colors, and specifications may not be part of standard fitment and may vary. Kia India Pvt. Ltd. reserves the right to make any changes with respect to the trims, colors, specifications, and other details of any model as mentioned or to modify/discontinue any offer/scheme/service without prior notice. These are meant to keep you safe on the roads. Visit your nearest Kia dealership for more details. Kia urges you to follow traffic rules. Offer applicable only in Karnataka.

Advaith Kia: Lalbagh Main Road, Tel: 9611006006 **Epitome Kia:** Whitefield, Tel: 9606970216 | Yelahanka, Tel: 7406343339 | Kolar, Tel: 8951903224 **JSP Kia:** Hosur Road, Tel: 9606011244 | Bellandur, Tel: 9071077717 **Naara Kia:** J.P Nagar, Tel: 7406528200 **PPS Kia:** Mysore Road, Tel: 6309990010 | Tumkur, Tel: 6309990030 **Taapasi Kia:** Kalyan Nagar, Tel: 8095537777 **VST Kia:** Palace Road, Tel: 9606988123 | Yeshwanthpur, Tel: 9606988124

A BG-BGE